

*Oral Questions***HOUSING****INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO INCREASE SUPPLY**

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a final supplementary question. The minister could have said simply no in reply to my last question. May I direct my supplementary question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. As the President of the Canadian Real Estate Association forecast a 10 per cent increase in house prices next year, and given the 30 per cent decline in housing starts this year that forecast is not unrealistic, has the minister any plans in addition to those which were announced in the budget for increasing the supply of housing, as this will be of decisive importance next year.

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the report of the President of the Canadian Real Estate Association, and perhaps he has not read my speeches. I think he is entitled to his view, which is held by some people. Nevertheless, I hope my programs will be sufficiently successful to ensure that we will prove him wrong, just as we have proved wrong some respected economic bodies. Certainly, we are concerned about the lower rate of starts. We are not satisfied with that. I outlined a range of programs in my speech on Monday; I hope the hon. member will read it, because he will see that there is a potential there for keeping housing starts high.

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[Translation]

IMMIGRATION**HAITIANS—PROPOSAL BY QUEBEC MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION**

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

The Quebec Minister of Immigration has just made public a report that he recently made a proposition to his federal counterpart to help settle the Haitian situation in Canada and to avoid similar ones in the future. Can the Minister of Manpower and Immigration inform the House of the nature of the proposal made by Mr. Bienvenue and what he intends to do in this regard?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I met with Mr. Bienvenue last Friday, I believe, and discussed the whole range of immigration questions, particularly immigration in Quebec. We did, of course, talk about the Haitian problem, but no specific proposal was made at that time and, unless he has sent me a communication subsequently which I have not received since that date, I cannot enlighten the hon. member further.

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

FINANCE**REMOVAL OF SALES TAX ON HEAVY TRUCKS—SUGGESTED RETURN OF TAX PAID ON VEHICLES IN DEALERS' HANDS**

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, may I address my question to the Minister of Finance. As the budget proposes removing the sales tax on heavy trucks, has the minister received urgent communications from a number of associations and dealers who are finding themselves left with heavy, specialized units on which many thousands of dollars of sales tax have already been paid and on which, in some instances, they may be forced to take a loss of over \$100,000.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have received representations from members on both sides of the House. We are reviewing the situation again this afternoon.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. The minister may recall that there is ample precedent in the past for returning sales tax in these circumstances.

An hon. Member: Under a Conservative government, too.

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ENERGY**TIDAL POWER FROM BAY OF FUNDY—POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THERMAL AND NUCLEAR POWER UNITS**

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources relates to the review of Fundy tidal power which he tabled at two o'clock. May I preface my question by thanking the minister for the cooperation he has shown throughout the review and by tabling the report.

● (1440)

In line with the positive action which has been taken in relation to Fundy tidal power development, is it the intention of the governments involved to consider the development of tidal power in conjunction with the possible development of thermal power from the Cumberland coalfields and the development of nuclear power from the proposed nuclear power station to be built at Point Lepreau, New Brunswick?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I should like to thank the hon. member for his introductory remarks. As he notes, the tidal power project as contemplated in the reassessment would involve complementary thermal stations. One of the critical questions would be how large a market might be needed for tidal power in eastern Canada to make the project feasible. With respect to the possible coal deposits in Cumberland County, the federal government is presently financing, with the provincial government, an assessment of the coal resources of Nova Scotia outside Cape Breton Island. Any addition to the power grid in the near future, the likely addition of nuclear power at Point Lepreau and