

Oral Questions

cost of land which is preventing most of the average income group from buying new homes? Was there any agreement between the federal government and the representatives from the various provinces on a formula or was there not? Could I have a categorical answer, yes or no?

An hon. Member: Louder!

Mr. Basford: Yes, there was, Mr. Speaker. I was very pleased and delighted that the provinces accepted my proposals on this subject at the conference.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, would the minister mind telling the House briefly what the formula is to bring down the high cost of land which is preventing the average income group from purchasing homes in the various urban centres?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the minister that if he wants to convey this information he should do so by way of a statement on motions.

DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVINCES AT CONFERENCE ON
REDUCTION OF MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Were there any discussions with regard to the high interest rates on mortgages and what proposals did the minister make to bring these down so that ordinary folk may buy homes?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that particular subject is not referred to in the communiqué but there were discussions at the conference about the bill on financial mechanisms which I hope to introduce shortly and which is designed to bring more money into the capital market for housing.

Mr. Speaker: There are a number of hon. members who want to ask supplementaries, but we will be running out of time very soon. I suggest that hon. members try to cut down on the number of supplementaries so as to give other members an opportunity to ask their questions. Perhaps there might be two or three supplementaries at the most on this subject and then we will go to the next matter.

PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR CONTINUED
SUPPORT BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): In view of the fact that the assisted home ownership program still assists purchasers with incomes between \$6,000 and \$9,000 and that the present subsidized rental program assists people with incomes below \$5,000, would the minister assure the House that there will be no reduction in the capital allocation with regard to the subsidized rental program and no curtailment or phasing out of that program?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I assured the provinces of our continued support within the law of CMHC public housing pro-

[Mr. Woolliams.]

grams. The amount of budget to be allocated to it would be a matter of consultation and co-ordination with each province involved. I think the provinces that have public housing programs were quite satisfied with my undertakings in that regard.

Mr. Speaker: Again, I bring to the attention of hon. members that we will be running short of time. Perhaps we might have a last supplementary from the hon. member for St. John's West, and then we should go on to the next subject. If we have run out of questioners before the end of the question period, we might return to this subject.

LAND ASSEMBLY PROGRAM—POSSIBLE DISCUSSION
WITH MUNICIPALITIES

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the municipalities were not directly represented at the recent conference, as promised by the minister in the House on January 16, will the municipalities be involved in the minister's federal-provincial land strategy which he referred to a moment ago?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to get agreement that housing would be discussed at the tri-level conference next November where the municipalities will be represented, and that the land development strategy would come up for consideration then.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

WARDAIR STEWARDESSES' STRIKE—POSSIBLE
INTERVENTION OF FEDERAL DEPARTMENT

Mr. Duncan M. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. Would the minister use his good offices to intervene in the current Wardair strike? I ask this question because of the national implications which threaten air traffic across Canada.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker. An officer of my department is endeavouring to get in touch with the parties for the purpose of finding some basis to arrive at a settlement.

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AIR TRANSPORT

ENFORCEMENT OF IN-FLIGHT SAFETY STANDARDS

Mr. Duncan M. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a related question for the Minister of Transport. Is the minister now in a position to answer the question regarding the enforcement of air flight safety regulations, as promised by him on January 22?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have already answered that question in the House. In all cases where there is a strike we monitor the flights. We