

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

The minister replied:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, in both French and English—

That was March 25. The answer was to be given within a few days in written form. On March 31 the questions were resumed by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis) and the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander). Then again, we raised the matter on April 14. The hon. member for Hamilton West homed in on the subject by asking:

Also, while the Prime Minister is on his feet will he advise the house whether the minister—

That is, the Minister of Transport.

—in fact made the junket he was supposed to make in the week after Easter with regard to urban renewal.

Then again on the next day, April 15, further questions were asked by the hon. member for Hamilton West and myself with regard to the matter. As recorded at page 7519 of *Hansard* the minister replied:

I intend to visit Vancouver and Calgary in the next two days and, hopefully, will then be in a position to issue some guidelines within a matter of a few days.

Then, as recorded at the bottom of the column, I said:

I should like to ask the minister when he will be in a position to lay down the sociological and other guidelines that he announced within a few days before we recessed for Easter would be laid down.

The minister replied:

Next week, Mr. Speaker, if not this week.

My only purpose in rising to my feet this evening is to say, as I have said before, that I think housing for the very poor in Canada undoubtedly is our most pressing issue in this field. I hope the minister will be able to come in and lay down the guidelines, so that at least they will be known to all the communities. I know he has done work in this regard in the city of Ottawa. However, I believe every community in Canada, whether small or large, should know what the Minister expects to bring forward so that they will know what is in store for the future. Then, too, all of us in this chamber will know that he is not just being guided by his own personal likes or dislikes. I hate to say personal things about a minister, but I believe that is appropriate. I hope he will bring in a statement of policy which will be applicable to every community in Canada and one which will indicate that people who otherwise could not enjoy the advantages of better housing

[Mr. McCleave.]

will be able to do so. That is my purpose in asking the question this evening.

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hard working Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer), who this week is making a survey of urban renewal projects in Vancouver and Calgary, I welcome this opportunity to reply to the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave). I also share the hon. member's concern about public housing and his interest in the recommendations of the federal task force on housing and urban development. I am thinking particularly of the recommendation which states that the federal government should initiate a thorough research program into the economic, social and psychological aspects of public housing and also the other recommendations which the government is studying at the present time.

I should like to assure the hon. member that the minister has promised to give the earliest possible consideration to making an announcement about the special guidelines for the provision of better housing for the underprivileged people in this country. As he promised in one or two answers in the house, he hopes it may be possible for him to announce these guidelines perhaps next week.

HOUSING —EXTENSION OF LOAN FORGIVENESS PROVISION ON MUNICIPAL PROJECTS

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight to argue the urgency of the question which I raised on Wednesday, April 16, as recorded at page 7596 of *Hansard*. My question was as follows:

My question is directed to the Minister of Transport in his capacity as minister in charge of housing. Since the housing task force report recommended loans and grants to municipalities in order that they might increase the amount of service land available, does the government contemplate any extension of the N.H.A. 25 per cent loan forgiveness provisions for municipal capital works projects, which are due to expire in March, 1970?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This does not appear to be a matter of great urgency—

It is understandable, I think, that Your Honour, at the mention of an expiry date almost a year hence, might conclude that the topic was not, on the surface, one of pressing urgency. As a former municipal alderman, I know something of the length of time it takes to complete a capital project of even the most modest proportions. Usually the steps following a decision to embark upon a water system, sewer system, public housing, urban