

Government, which, for years, kept spending as though there was no tomorrow.

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[English]

HOUSING

KIRKLAND LAKE AREA—LOW-INCOME AND SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister in charge of CMHC. With the increased amount of mining activity in the Kirkland Lake area of my riding, much concern has been expressed about low-income housing and senior citizen housing. Could the Minister tell us exactly what is the federal Government's role with regard to providing funding for senior citizen and low-income housing?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I think the problems the Hon. Member is encountering are not peculiar to his riding. They are global, at least in Canada. There are federal-provincial agreements outstanding with all provinces whereby the provinces are charged with the delivery of the programs. The federal Government provides the majority of funds. If the Hon. Member has a particular problem which has not been acknowledged by the province, I would be happy to make representations on his behalf.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR WATER QUALITY POLICY

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. What will be the Government's response to the statement by the International Joint Commission that the only real difficulty with its job and the International Water Quality Agreement is the failure on the part of Governments to show the political commitment to act? For example, will the Government at last bring forward a water quality policy which commits the Government to hard action and appropriate expenditures, or will the Government wait for the impossibility of singles and doubles adding up to home runs?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I think yet again the Hon. Member has struck out. The fact is that the budget of my Department, Environment Canada, is \$768 million. It is higher now than it has ever been in any previous year, except for one. We have brought down an Environmental Protection Act which will be reintroduced into Parliament for first reading, it is to be hoped, this spring. The

Oral Questions

Act addresses many of the concerns raised by the International Joint Commission in its report. In addition, very recently I signed with the Government of the United States the Niagara River pollution abatement program, which will slash toxic loadings into that important international waterway by 50 per cent by 1996. We are taking solid action in response to the International Joint Commission and to other representations.

POSITION OF FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same Minister. Is it not clear that an integrated ecosystem approach involving both provincial and federal participation is necessary? Is the Government not welshing on its agreement when it tells municipalities that they will get no help in making their contribution to cleaning up the Great Lakes?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member says that the federal Government is welshing on a commitment to the municipalities to support—

Mr. McCurdy: On the agreement.

Mr. McMillan: There is no such agreement. Waterworks of a local sort are within municipal and provincial jurisdiction. We are backing the provinces and the municipalities to the hilt within our federal jurisdiction. We expect the municipalities and the provinces to live up to their side of the bargain.

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[Translation]

IMMIGRATION

REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION OF DEMANDS MADE BY PUBLIC SERVANTS OF MR. GEORGE ZOUBRIS

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deal with the case of Mr. George Zoubri, who has been a Canadian citizen since 1968 and a resident of Montreal for 20 years. My question is directed to the Minister of State (Immigration) who is aware of the situation since he had a telephone conversation with this citizen. I would like the Minister to tell us why, three times since July last year, officials of his Department have asked Mr. Zoubri to go to the Department to obtain permanent refugee status?

• (1500)

[English]

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, I will not respond to the specific question, but I will certainly take note of it and make sure that my officials will be back to the Hon. Member with a complete response.