

Oral Questions

HOUSING

REASONS FOR INCREASE IN LUMBER PRICES

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the fact that lumber prices have risen very dramatically over the last year, in some cases as much as 100 per cent, and in view of the fact this is causing a rapid escalation in the price of new housing in Canada, can the minister indicate whether officials of his department are investigating this matter and can he inform the House what factors are causing it?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that is really a question for the Minister of Finance, not for me. I understand that demand in the United States is reflected in large measure in the increased price in Canada. I would be happy to give the hon. member a fuller explanation later.

Mr. Andre: In view of the rapid escalation in the cost of housing, which I am informed is to a large degree attributable to the rapid use in the cost of lumber, can the minister indicate what steps he is contemplating or will recommend that the government initiate to keep the price of housing within reach of thousands and millions of Canadians who so far have been unable to afford a house of their own?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would suggest that such information should be conveyed to the House by way of a statement on motions.

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CANADA PENSION PLAN

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON ACTION RESPECTING
MEDICAL ADVISERS

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the severe criticisms directed at the minister's department with regard to the Canada Pension Plan by the hon. member for Simcoe North and myself during the recent study of the department's supplementary estimates, is the minister in a position to tell the House now or at the first opportunity on motions whether he has conducted a review of his medical advisers under the Canada Pension Plan or any other action he has taken?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, about the issue raised by the hon. member and others on this side of the House, I can say that I am reviewing this question with the officers of my department; I hope to be able to announce certain developments concerning this within a few days, at most within a few weeks.

[Mr. Oberle.]

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES BAN ON IMPORTATION OF WHALE
MEAT—EFFECT ON INDUSTRY AT CHURCHILL—REQUEST
FOR REPRESENTATIONS

Mr. Keith Taylor (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the apparent change of policy by the United States government in imposing restrictions on the importation of whale meat into that country, would the minister investigate the effect of this regulation upon the whaling industry at the port of Churchill, and would he also make representations to that government in order to obtain exemption from such restrictions?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to see that the hon. member for Churchill approves the project we have undertaken for the Indians in the area and that he hopes the American government will not impose restrictions on whales caught by the Indians in that area. Consequently, I shall see whether or not representations to the American government are indicated in this regard.

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[English]

CANADIAN CULTURE

MULTICULTURALISM—REQUEST FOR GRANT TO
SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL LIBRARY TO BUY BOOKS
IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES

Mr. Elias Nesdoly (Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister responsible for multiculturalism. In view of the fact that for a number of years now the Saskatchewan provincial library has been buying books in the languages of the major ethnic groups in Saskatchewan, in view of the fact their budget is limited, and in view of the fact that last year when they attempted to get a grant from the Department of the Secretary of State they were refused because they were a provincial government agency, is the minister considering revising official government policy of last year in order to make it possible for the provincial library to extend its collection of books in French, German, Ukrainian, Polish, Hungarian, Dutch, Slovak—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should ask the question as promptly as possible. I hope he does not propose to run through all languages, known and unknown.

Mr. Nesdoly:—and library books in other languages as well?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, in view of the scope of the question I should like to take it as notice.