

applications that are made in a legitimate manner and in accordance with the rules, regulations and laws of this country.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I was not asking the minister about his willingness to accept immigrants from Haiti, I asked him whether he has mounted any special recruitment program consistent with his policy of recruiting Francophone immigrants generally?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, an office was opened at Port-au-Prince a year and a half ago, which I think is an indication of our long-standing desire, and it is my hope that we can find ways and means to improve recruitment of Francophone immigrants to Canada, hopefully to Quebec.

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ELECTION EXPENSES

POSSIBILITY OF AMENDMENT TO LEGISLATION

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question and perhaps one short supplementary to the secretary of the Privy Council.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. To my knowledge there is no secretary to the Privy Council present in the House.

Mr. Dick: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I intended that my question be directed to the President of the Privy Council. Thank you very kindly. I had no intention of demoting the minister.

In view of the fact it has been some ten days since it was drawn to the attention of this House that there has been a flagrant abuse of the Election Expenses Act, I believe an immoral exploitation of a loophole, such that provincial political party associations are going to reap benefits which were not intended, does the President of the Privy Council have any intention of introducing amendments to close up this loophole and stop the exploitation of the federal Election Expenses Act by the NDP or other political parties?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I have been reviewing the operations of the Election Expenses Act and I think it will be necessary to bring revisions before the House. The hon. member may be aware that one member on the Liberal side, the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville, already has a private bill on the order paper for that purpose.

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the hon. member for one short supplementary.

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, is the introduction of this bill being delayed as a government bill because of the fact that on October 28, 1974, on Liberal party of Ontario stationery over the signature of the president Jeffrey King, individuals were being asked to donate to the provincial party in the same manner—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

Mr. Sharp: The answer is no, Mr. Speaker. I do hope, however, that hon. members on the other side of the House will co-operate in dealing with measures to clear the order paper so I can deal with this matter.

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TRANSPORT

ASSURANCE AS TO AVAILABILITY OF CATTLE CARS IN WESTERN CANADA

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, in view of the drastic drop in cattle prices and the demand for feeder cattle in eastern Canada, can the Minister of Transport assure the House and the country that he and his department will make every effort to encourage both railways to make all possible livestock cars available in western Canada? We have the cattle and we want to move them but there is a shortage of cars right now. Will the minister's department assure the House and the country that they will make every effort to get these stock cars into western Canada to move the cattle?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that I will make every effort that can be made in these circumstances.

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● (1500)

[Translation]

HOUSING

AGREEMENT WITH QUEBEC ON HOUSING FOR NATIVE AND RURAL FAMILIES

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of State for Urban Affairs.

Could the minister tell the House if an agreement has been entered into with the government of the province of Quebec under the National Housing Act providing for the construction or the purchasing of housing facilities for rural and native families?

[English]

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have signed agreements with the province of Quebec. I would have to check the precise details in relation to the question, but it covers the broad range of housing available in other provinces and this is a great step forward for the province of Quebec and for Canada.

[Translation]

INQUIRY AS TO REINTRODUCTION OF BILL C-134 PROVIDING LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the hon. Minister of State for Urban Affairs.

During the last Parliament, the Minister of State responsible for Urban Affairs introduced Bill C-134 providing for the continuation of the National Housing Act