

*Business of the House*

With the deplorable situation that we have for housing on our reserves throughout the country, with children growing up in shacks with rotten floors and walls falling down, and with the cold winter coming, could he explain why there is no extra money for native housing in the Supplementary Estimates that came down today?

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, the Member, I am sure, is aware that the expenditures for 1987-1988 for housing for individuals under Bill C-31 alone totalled over \$10 million. The housing expenditure projected for next year under the same proposal is \$17 million. The estimate that was made on the passing of Bill C-31 called for budgetary expenditures and dollars to be set aside to address the returnees and the demand that will be put on the Department. That assessment was not accurate and we are now reviewing the way to draw down the dollars that have been identified for future years.

● (1500)

## GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister knows full well that the money for Bill C-31 returnees as he calls them is not even a pittance compared to what is required. I ask my question also on behalf of those people who have been living on reserves all their lives. Why did the Government not have the decency to provide money for decent housing for native people?

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I know the Hon. Member is familiar with the housing program of the Department of Indian Affairs. There is also a responsibility on behalf of Indian people and Indian government in providing this. We provide subsidies and, as the Hon. Member knows, the Government of Canada, through the taxpayers of Canada, provides subsidies for housing units on reserves. Naturally, there can be more need identified than there are dollars available, but I want the Hon. Member to take a moment and reflect on the fact that in each of the last several years 2,500 new units have been built, and over 3,000 renovations have been done on Indian reserves including in 1986 and 1987.

The Hon. Member keeps muttering to his Leader. I recognize that there is not adequate money for every housing need, but there is a recognition on the part of the Government that we will do everything we can to assist. There is a responsibility on the part of Indian leadership to assist as well in providing housing on reserves.

[Translation]

## HOUSING

## CO-OPERATIVE RENTAL LEVELS—GOVERNMENT AID

**Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for housing. Last week, in Montreal, a number of co-operative housing organizations advised us that several managers of projects being built in Montreal and its suburbs cannot find tenants because the rents are much too high. What is the Minister planning to do to help these co-operative groups?

[English]

**Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I met with the groups in question a couple of months ago. They raised some problems. I have directed officials of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation in the area to try to work out a formula and they have been holding a succession of meetings on an ongoing basis. It is not an easy problem to solve. Some of the rents are too high. We are trying to concentrate our efforts and our money on those most in need. I hope that a resolution will be forthcoming quickly.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT REDUCE CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING RENTS BY 15 PER CENT

**Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister must be aware that the problem is unique to Montreal and its suburbs—quite unique—because the rents in these co-operative housing projects are higher than those in the market place, even if co-op members share in the maintenance of rental accommodation. Is the Minister prepared to reduce by 15 p. cent these co-operative rental levels?

[English]

**Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I know the Hon. Member understands that we have two main thrusts in our housing program. One is directed at non-profit organizations and those most in need. The co-op program is geared to market rental income for people who can afford to pay rents relevant to co-ops. They are two different programs and there is sometimes confusion between the two.

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## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

## WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the deputy government House Leader to give us a statement of the business the Government intends to put before the House for the coming week.

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)):** Madam Speaker, today we will commence