

Inquiries of the Ministry

I asked the Prime Minister whether there would be any increase in the financial allotment for housing in this current fiscal year and the right hon. gentleman undertook to take the question as notice. I wonder whether he can now tell the house if there is to be any increase in the financial allotment for housing in this fiscal year.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I took the question as notice at that time because we were in an interim position with regard to the existence of a minister. Now that we have one, I will ask him to bring the information to the house.

AVAILABILITY OF HOMES TO PERSONS OF
MODERATE INCOME

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): In view of the representations which have been made to the government since the first reading of the amendments to the National Housing Act, may I ask whether the government contemplates bringing in any additional legislation to provide houses for people in the lower income brackets?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The problem of people in low income groups will, of course, be dealt with during the debate but there is no intention to add in a significant way to the legislation now before the house.

INQUIRY AS TO IDENTIFICATION OF
ACTING MINISTER

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): In view of the fact that the list of ministers, giving the names of acting ministers and second acting ministers, with which we have been supplied, does not include the name of the Minister without Portfolio who is in charge of housing, can the Prime Minister say who is the acting minister in charge of housing when the superior minister is away?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): For today, the acting minister is the Minister without Portfolio from Manitoba.

Mr. Woolliams: Who is he?

Mr. Trudeau: I will ensure that this—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Since the Minister without Portfolio from Manitoba is now a full minister, to whom is the Prime Minister referring?

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

[Translation]

FAMILY ALLOWANCES

INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE CUTS IN BENEFITS

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question to the Prime Minister.

Since he stated last week that cuts in government expenditures would severely affect some sectors of the Canadian economy, could the Prime Minister tell the house whether his government intends to amend the Family Allowances Act?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, when I brought that matter up, I did not give any clear-cut example; however, when the time comes to announce such cuts and to request the support of the opposition parties to fight inflation, we shall make the appropriate statement.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Is the Prime Minister ready to accept our full and complete co-operation in this fight against inflation in Canada? We are ready to tell him how to do it.

[English]

IMMIGRATION

DESERTERS—POWERS EXERCISED AT
PORTS OF ENTRY

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that immigration officers within Canada are not required to exercise the same discretionary powers relating to military deserters seeking to remain in Canada as those immigration officers serving at ports of entry, and in view of the minister's assurance that this delicate and controversial subject would be reviewed in the near future, would the minister inform the house when he expects to announce an alternative government policy?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am not absolutely certain, but I hope within a very short time.

FINANCE

ACTION THROUGH INTERNATIONAL
MONETARY FUND TO PREVENT
CRISES

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime