

*Oral Questions***HOUSING**

## PROGRAM TO ASSIST HOME OWNERS

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works with respect to the average Canadian home owner who has been totally abandoned in the Speech from the Throne and it is, perhaps, rather in spite of or despite the previous answer given by the Minister of Finance.

In view of the fact that the average Canadian home owner who is renewing a mortgage today is faced with the spectre of mortgage payments which he just cannot afford, as well as the spectre of foreclosure—which is referred to in the Speech from the Throne—does the minister have a broad program of relief which is in any way comparable to the legislation which was introduced into the last Parliament by the Conservative party?

**Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, the Speech from the Throne, I believe, speaks for itself inasmuch as it addresses the problem of a group of home owners that we think are not a majority and probably are not the average home owner in this country.

As you know, shortly after becoming Minister of Public Works I addressed a group of home owners who came under a program which was introduced by the former Liberal government. Our intention was to address those first who needed help the most. I think it is fair to say to my friend that our philosophy and our objective in the program, of which we will announce specifics at a later date, will follow that same policy.

**Mr. Lewis:** Madam Speaker, while the Canadian home owner waits for this "later date", has the government any legislation which will in any way produce relief which is comparable to the \$375 which Canadian home owners could have received in April or May after filing their income tax returns this month? That was under the legislation which we introduced and which was defeated by the Liberal party and its allies, the NDP, last fall.

**Mr. Cosgrove:** Madam Speaker, again for the sake of brevity, the short answer is no.

**An hon. Member:** Thank you.

**Mr. Cosgrove:** No doubt the government's programs will be assisted by the opposition parties as the legislative program of the government generally goes forward.

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**PUBLIC SERVICE**

## HIRING QUOTAS FOR WOMEN

**Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Madam Speaker, to move on to another topic, I would like to ask a question of the President of the Treasury Board. As the minister responsible for implementing the affirmative action measures to improve the position of women in the public

service of Canada, measures that were promised in the Speech from the Throne—will the minister give his assurance that these measures will include hiring quotas for women at all levels of the public service?

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board):** I thank the hon. member for that question, Madam Speaker. The affirmative action that we plan in Treasury Board is a broad-based affirmative action. It does not include, at this time, a quota system for hiring women in the public service.

**Miss Jewett:** Madam Speaker, may I, then, turn to the minister responsible for the status of women, who is also the Minister of Employment and Immigration, and ask him if it is not his understanding that affirmative action to improve the condition of women in the public service of Canada in fact includes, among many other things, hiring quotas?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I would like to point out to the hon. member that at the present time, under the affirmative action program, there is the establishment of certain targets, which is quite a different concept from quotas, but there are targets that are established by each department and Crown corporation. These are registered with the Treasury Board and so monitored.

We are preparing a review of the affirmative action programs that affect both the public sector and the private sector. Submissions will be made to cabinet this spring when that review is completed, and the kind of enforcement actions that we think are most effective will be implemented at that time.

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**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

## GUIDELINES FOR CABINET MEMBERS

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Can the minister assure the House that he has satisfied himself personally that there is nothing in the background, either from a legal or a moral point of view, of any of his ministers which would make it unsuitable for them to be members of his cabinet?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I have followed the usual procedure when asking and inviting a minister to be part of cabinet: I have assured myself from a security point of view that there are absolutely no objections. From a moral point of view, I have relied upon the work of the ministers that they were not in any conflict of situation positions.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Madam Speaker, is it the intention of the Prime Minister to require his ministers to comply with conflict of interest guidelines? If so, when does he anticipate that particular compliance will be met, and when will he make a statement with respect to compliance by members of cabinet?