

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether hon. members might not agree that this is a restatement of the first supplementary asked by the right hon. gentleman?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, there was a substantially new element in that question and I wonder if I might be permitted to reply to it. It is the suggestion that we have to do something for the west. Surely, the right hon. gentleman realizes that the announcement made by the minister responsible for the Wheat Board, the Minister of Justice, is to the effect that the western farmer will now be permitted to get world prices for the wheat he sells to the miller, instead of the price he got earlier. I see the right hon. gentleman laughs, but he obviously does not understand this.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I would have expected that applause. While the gabbling of geese saved ancient Rome, I doubt whether that type of thing will save this government.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the debate might end at this point and we might return to the question period. I will recognize the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands in a moment on a supplementary to the previous question. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Meadow Lake.

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HOUSING

ALLEGED POOR CONSTRUCTION OF BAL-MAN HOMES, MEADOW LAKE, SASKATCHEWAN—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. Elias Nesdoly (Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, may I direct my question to his parliamentary secretary. In view of the fact that Bal-Man Homes Ltd. built some homes at Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, of substandard quality, and in view of the fact that this company has not paid some of the subcontractors, this resulting in mechanics liens being registered against the homes, has the minister requested the Saskatoon office of CMHC to conduct a full scale investigation of this matter, to ensure that the home buyers are protected?

● (1430)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have the impression the hon. member's question ought to be placed on the order paper. If I am wrong and there is urgency, it could be considered at the time of adjournment this evening.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION IN RUG-RANKING SYSTEM OF PROMOTING SECRETARIES—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to those asked

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earlier of the President of the Treasury Board. Is it the position of the minister that the rug-ranking system does treat secretaries as chattels, and, if so, is that acceptable to the government or is this unfair and discriminatory practice, which I can assure the minister does exist, going to be corrected?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, if there is an unfair and discriminatory practice, I would be glad to join the hon. member in seeing it is corrected. I would like to suggest that the problems appear to lie rather with our inability to adequately rate secretaries according to their competence, not to the classification of jobs they currently hold.

Miss MacDonald: In light of the minister's reply and his notable lack of enthusiasm to do anything about this, will he consult with Katherine Cooke, Chairman of the Status of Women Advisory Council, in order to get some expert advice as to how this can be done?

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[Translation]

MANPOWER

MEASURES TO PROVIDE SUMMER JOBS FOR STUDENTS— REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

In view of the fact that some students are still unemployed and that there are only five or six weeks left before school starts again, will the minister make a statement this week and announce new measures designed to help the young workers immediately and thus lighten the burden of their parents?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we are always concerned about this segment of the labour force which has more difficulty finding employment than other segments. I believe we have already announced several measures which have been publicized in this House and elsewhere, indicative of our special efforts to find suitable employment for them. I can assure the hon. member that student Manpower centres across the country and student employment programs embarked on by my department, and several other departments, including Opportunities for Youth, are making increased efforts, but I do not have anything new to announce at this stage.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, is the minister also aware that some May and June graduates are unemployed, and will his new policy take into consideration the fact that those young workers are now in a very awkward situation?

[English]

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of the number of graduates coming from our universities and schools. We are making diligent efforts to find them jobs