

Oral Questions
URBAN AFFAIRS

COMPENSATION TO AHOP RESIDENTS IN VIRGINIA PARK, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Public Works responsible for housing. I wish to ask the minister if CMHC is prepared to offer to the homeowners in the Virginia Park, AHOP subdivision in St. John's a settlement in order that they may be able to effect repairs to their homes arising out of inadequate inspection, faulty building materials and substandard materials, which has seriously depreciated the value of their houses.

Is the minister prepared to make an offer on behalf of CMHC to these unfortunate people, other than the offer made to them on January 8 in writing by CMHC offering to give them a loan which would be added to their mortgage?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am glad the hon. member has asked that question. Indeed, the offer made by CMHC to the lawyer representing some of the people affected in the Virginia Park project in St. John's, Newfoundland, has not, I understand, been fully communicated to the people concerned.

● (1500)

The offer does not only include an increase in the loan, but the possibility of subsidies attached to this offer of an extra loan in order to allow people to make urgent repairs to their homes. Discussions are going on at the present time between the CMHC regional director and the lawyer representing some of the owners, but I should like the people concerned to look fully at the advantages which are offered, because CMHC is going beyond normal practice in trying to accommodate them and help them solve their problems.

Mr. McGrath: The offer of CMHC has, of course, the advantage of increasing the value of a house which has, in fact, depreciated. I would ask the minister whether the investigations of the RCMP into alleged wrongdoing, alleged pay-offs to inspectors by the contractors, have been concluded and whether charges will be laid.

Mr. Ouellet: Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker. When the investigations are completed, it will be up to officers of the RCMP to convey their conclusions to the appropriate authority; but I have no indication that their inquiries have been concluded. In the meantime, the people concerned have been deflected to other tasks and we are awaiting the results of the investigations.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

STATUS OF WOMEN

REFERENCE OF REPORTS TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I should like to direct a question to the government House leader following the extraordinary statement made by the Prime Minister with regard to the president of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. I should like to ask him whether he would arrange with his cabinet colleagues that the recent reports of the advisory council be referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration so that we can hear Madame Rousseau's side of the question and her statements which the Prime Minister dismissed so cavalierly.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I was looking in the hon. member's direction in anticipation of a question supplementary to that put by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, but she did not get up then and I do not think I can allow her to put her question now.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PENSIONS

TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND GOVERNOR GENERAL DESIGNATE

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I should like to table, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), copies of correspondence in both official languages between myself and the then Governor General designate, Mr. Edward Schreyer, concerning pension provisions for him at the time of his retirement as Governor General.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, since we are answering more than a hundred questions today, I seek permission to table the list of numbers in order to spare the House a long and useless enumeration.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Is that agreed?

Mr. Paproski: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed and so ordered.