

## Oral Questions

[English]

## HOUSING

## ASSISTED HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM—SUGGESTED FIRST REFUSAL PROVISION FOR CMHC IN CASE OF RESALE

**Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, my question was for the minister responsible for housing, but in his absence I should like to address it to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the avowed intent of the AHOP program was to provide low-cost housing for Canadians, and in view of the fact that some of these houses are now being sold at a capital gain, would the Prime Minister entertain the thought of having a first refusal provision written into CMHC contracts so that more housing can be provided for Canadians rather than as a means of gaining additional capital funding.

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I will take notice of the question and take it up with my minister.

## ASSISTED HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM—ALLEGED REFUSAL OF ROYAL TRUST AND ROYAL BANK TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR LOANS

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Is the Prime Minister aware that the Royal Trust Company and the Royal Bank refuse to receive applications from AHOP applicants, even though they have qualified in every other way, and that the Royal Bank has notified the regional representative of AHOP in Vancouver that he should no longer send applicants for AHOP to the Royal Bank.

● (1450)

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. member would repeat the first part of his question. I think I might be familiar with the nature of the problem, and I might be able to answer.

**Mr. Friesen:** Is the minister aware that Royal Trust Company and the Royal Bank have refused to receive applications from AHOP applicants who have qualified in every other way, and that the representative of the Royal Bank has written to the representative of AHOP in the western region stating that he is no longer supposed to send applicants to the Royal Bank?

**Mr. Danson:** No, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that at all. I am not at all familiar with the situation with regard to Royal Trust. But I have had very extensive discussions with the vice-president, who I believe is in charge of mortgage operations for the Royal Bank, which is participating. There might have been some difficulties with regard to the period of amortization, but I believe that has been worked out, and if the hon. member's constituent would have his manager contact Mr. Peter Carter at the Royal Bank in Montreal, he might be able to have this matter straightened out.

[Mr. Lalonde.]

## SOCIAL SECURITY

## PROPOSED SOCIAL SERVICES ACT—DATE OF CONSULTATIONS WITH PROVINCES—POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT ON ADMINISTRATION AND JURISDICTION

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare with regard to the envisaged social services act. Can the minister advise whether he has lined up a time for meeting his provincial counterparts? There has been some indication that this would happen either in January or February. Is the minister optimistic in terms of an agreement being reached at that particular time?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, in answer to the first part of the question, I will say that it will be next February 3 and 4. The answer to the second part is yes.

[English]

**Mr. Alexander:** In an article in the *Globe and Mail* of December 9 the following is stated:

Mr. Lalonde said earlier he expected the proposals for a new Social Services Act separating income security from social services will be accepted by provincial welfare ministers at their next conference in January or February and passed in Parliament by the end of 1976.

If those remarks are true, is the minister now stating that there has been agreement in the interim with respect to administration costs, jurisdictional problems and administration? Has there been agreement in the interim so that the minister can be optimistic, if indeed those are his words in that press report?

[Translation]

**Mr. Lalonde:** Mr. Speaker, I have consulted all the ministers of social welfare of the country during a recent tour of the provinces. I have every reason to believe that the jurisdictional or administrative problems which might arise in respect of a new law on social services have been thoroughly resolved, and I have no reason to think that any particular difficulty will surface in these two areas at the next meeting.

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[English]

## NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

## ALLEGED CHARGING OF SOME OPERATING COSTS TO ENERGY SUPPLIES ALLOCATION BOARD—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It relates to the Auditor General's report which indicated that the National Energy Board toward the end of its 1974-75 year charged \$90,000 of its operating costs to the Energy Supplies Allocation Board, which was a clear attempt to circumvent the control of parliament on spending. I should like to ask the Prime Minister, in view of the fact that this is in contravention of the Financial Administration Act and the Criminal Code in the area of criminal breach of trust, whether he will refer this incident to the Department of Justice for a legal