

Oral Questions

getting to the reasons for any surplus or deficit in any such fund as that of the minister.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I could give that assurance except where it affects a policy decision. But there will be such revolving funds which I do not think is a bad practice at all.

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ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

REASON BOARD FAILED TO PREVENT INCREASES IN HOUSING COSTS

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Since the consumer price index which was released this morning shows that the housing component has increased 11.1 per cent in the past year compared to a 10.4 per cent increase when the government's controls program was brought in, can the minister indicate to this House the reason for the increase? Will he make a statement to the House on motions next week presenting information from his department why the Anti-Inflation Board has not prevented the further escalation in housing costs?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if I could draw the hon. member's attention to the release of Statistics Canada this morning, he will note that the principal reason for the increase in the housing component of the consumer price index was the increase in municipal taxes in Canada which comes into the October figure. As I have had occasion to mention to the House before, the government of course is not in a position to control the taxation policies either of the provincial or municipal governments, and for this reason the anti-inflation program has not been in a good position to restrain those increases which it is true the consumer must pay.

REASON FOR REVISED GUIDELINES ON PRESS AND PROFITS OF LAND DEVELOPERS

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister realizes it is not only municipal taxes but is also the land profits that have been made. Since the major Canadian land developers are reporting huge profit increases such as Cadillac Fairview up 64 per cent, Markborough Properties up 30 per cent and Genstar up 21 per cent, can the minister indicate to this House why the government approved last Friday the revised Anti-Inflation Board regulations which widened even more significantly its guidelines on prices and profits of land developers?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, one of the principal reasons was that the land realization price of course would not be an increase in price which has occurred only during the control period. It may well indeed reflect the ownership of the land extending well before the period of controls became effective. We have indicated for the

[Mr. Lawrence.]

period of the controls that any increase that occurs during the period of the controls, on the contrary, would not be entitled to be taken out of income or be exempt from excess revenue.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

REASON CORPORATION FAILED TO ANNOUNCE OPENING OF FRENCH TELEVISION STATION IN REGINA

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for Canada who is undoubtedly concerned about national unity and upholding minority rights.

I would like to know if the minister intends to ask the CBC why its news service did not see fit to include an excellent news about the opening of a French television station in Regina, that is CBKFT, on November 8, 1976? Would it not be an arrogant attitude on the part of the CBC?

[English]

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I shall certainly pass on the concern of the hon. member to the CBC and seek an explanation. Perhaps I could indicate to the hon. member that there is today another station opening in Vancouver. I am sure this House will be happy to know that the CBC is extending its facilities in this way.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

PURPOSE OF MEETING OF OFFICIALS IN MONCTON—
POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION BY BUSINESS AND LABOUR

Mr. Leonard C. Jones (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Can he confirm that meetings have been held in Moncton in the last few days between his officials from Ottawa and the local department of DREE? Would he advise what the purpose of these meetings is and if they have been behind closed doors whether consideration has been given to inviting participation from business and labour organizations in the region.

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I can certainly confirm that my department officials hold regular meetings with provincial authorities and representatives of private enterprises under their jurisdiction. Unfortunately the hon. member did not give enough details so I cannot link those meetings with any specific case he might have in mind. If he wants to be more specific, I may be able to give him a clearer answer.