

Oral Questions

weekend was invited to meet with Ms. Menzies, the vice-chairman of the Anti-Inflation Board, for the purpose of making clear to them the exceptions which are available, and also that the trade union movement itself must desire strongly to improve the position of the women for whom they bargain. They have to take the initiative in this respect.

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[Translation]

HOUSING**JOINT PROGRAM FOR LOW PRICED HOUSES IN QUEBEC—
POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF INTEREST RATES**

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Is he acquainted—as he should be—with the joint program for the construction of low priced houses, especially in Quebec, with funds from the federal government? If so, can he explain to the House why the federal government is levying a 10 per cent compound interest rate from Quebec for those loans refunded on a 50-year basis? Is he also in a position to consider our proposal to review that interest rate so as to reduce the taxation level in Quebec while encouraging the construction of low cost housing?

● (1420)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the details of that particular matter concerning housing, but I have exchanged correspondence with the colleague of the hon. member on the general problem of interest rates. The special case mentioned by the member would come under the jurisdiction of the minister responsible for housing whom I will ask to take it in consideration.

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[English]

ENERGY**SALE OF CANDU REACTOR TO JAPAN—POSSIBILITY MARUBENI
ACTING AS AGENT**

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the press announcement from our Tokyo embassy late on Friday that Canada is on the verge of selling a CANDU nuclear reactor to Japan, can the minister inform the House whether AECL has retained an agent for the sale of a CANDU reactor in Japan and if in fact that agent is the Marubeni Corporation, which was the agent used in Japan by the Lockheed Corporation?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, there were press reports about the pending or possible sale by AECL to a Japanese utility. I think it is too early to say that that sale is about to be consummated. I can say that there has been a feasibility study, and the results of that study have been positive. As to whether or not the

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

Marubeni Corporation is the agent for AECL, I am not in a position to say at this time. I think the hon. member will remember that Mr. Campbell indicated to the committee that there was a renegotiation taking place between AECL and Marubeni, but I will be pleased to give him an update on that.

Mr. Lawrence: Would the minister inform the House, as soon as he finds out, if the matter is being renegotiated, and in the meantime can he confirm to the House that under the original terms of that contract it was the Marubeni Corporation which was to receive an even higher agency fee than that paid to Mr. Eisenberg and the UDI group in relation to the South Korean deal?

Mr. Gillespie: I have confirmed on a number of occasions that the Marubeni Corporation was the designated agent by AECL. I have also made it very clear—and I repeat it—that that particular contract is, to the best of my knowledge, still under renegotiation.

**SALE OF CANDU REACTOR TO JAPAN—TERMS OF
RENEGOTIATED AGENT'S CONTRACT WITH MARUBENI**

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Inasmuch as Mr. Campbell, the chairman of AECL, made it clear to the committee that he was renegotiating the contract, and given the fact that, when the contract with the agent in Israel was renegotiated on the Korea deal, that part of the renegotiation that took place was to guarantee to the agent that if another reactor were sold to Korea it would be handled by the same agent, can the minister tell us what was given by Canada to the agent in the renegotiation operation? In other words, were any arrangements made with the agent in Japan as to whether he could have the exclusive right to sell reactors in the Far East?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I indicated in my answer to the first question that I would find out the status of the renegotiation. I will be pleased to do so, and will provide the information.

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HEALTH**REQUEST FOR IMPROVED PROGRAMS TO COMBAT
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH HAZARDS TO WOMEN**

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare who is also responsible for the status of women, but in his absence, I direct it to the Prime Minister. In a report prepared last October by the Advisory Council of the Status of Women, entitled, "Occupational Health Hazards to Women" it was statistically documented that occupational health research concentrates on males and on industries in which males predominate, even though two-fifths of the total work force is female. Is the Prime Minister aware of this study and,