

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member should read the very good article about my department in the *Financial Times* and he might then change his mind.

Mr. McGrath: I wish to ask a supplementary question arising out of the annual report of the minister's department wherein it is stated that grants under the Area Development Incentives Act are 22 per cent lower than last year's claim, representing a loss of 12,264 jobs. Is an investigation being made to determine how many of the remaining estimated jobs are still in existence?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I will have to make an analysis to answer this. Do you not have people in the opposition who are interested in research?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): We pay for that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister should address his reply to the Chair.

Mr. McGrath: A further supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for St. John's East on a last supplementary and then the hon. member for Broadview and the hon. member for Annapolis Valley.

Mr. McGrath: In view of the annual report of the minister's department wherein this wide discrepancy under the Area Development Incentives Act appears, I think it is incumbent upon the minister to give an undertaking that an investigation will be made to determine how many of the jobs created under this program are actually still in existence.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is arguing in favour of his previous question.

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HOUSING

TALVIN PROJECT, HULL—SUGGESTED MEETING TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS CONCERNING STRUCTURAL DEFECTS AND REPAIRS

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): My question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the serious building problems concerning structural defects and repairs experienced by home owners of the Talvin housing project in Hull, Quebec, and the refusal or lack of communication by CMHC officials and the builder, and possibly the minister, will the minister agree to arrange a meeting with representatives of the home owners in this housing project and call to the meeting CMHC officials and the builder?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): I will inquire into it, Mr. Speaker. If a meeting will serve some useful purpose, I have no objection.

[Mr. McGrath.]

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF REPORT ON LOW-COST HOUSING

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister table in the House the report of the special task force which I believe has reported to him on the whole question of low-cost housing, in particular the financing of the rehabilitation of existing housing, co-operatives and non-profit housing? Will he table that report in the House?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there have been a great many studies within the ministry and the corporation, the results of which will be reflected from time to time in legislation laid before the House.

[Later:]

Mr. Brewin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will first recognize the hon. member for Greenwood on his supplementary or if he prefers, on his point of order.

Mr. Brewin: The point of order I was going to raise was that I directed a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs relating to a specific report of a task force. The minister made a general reply. Would he deal with my question about the task force report on low-cost housing which he has, which is available and which this House and the public should have?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I am examining the very large number of studies and reports that have been made to determine which ones should be laid before the House and when. That is still being examined.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

NOVA SCOTIA LAND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT—PASSING OF ORDER IN COUNCIL

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): My question arises out of one asked earlier by the hon. member for St. John's East and concerns a specific project within the jurisdiction of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. The minister has had some notice of this question. He gave me the courtesy of an answer, but in his reply this week he did not indicate whether the order in council authorizing federal approval for a land improvement project involving—

An hon. Member: Question.

Mr. Nowlan: I will come to the question in a minute, loudmouth. I appreciate some of the problems. I understand that the minister's department and Treasury Board authorized the land improvement project affecting all Nova Scotia which was submitted by the government of Nova Scotia. Has Treasury Board now passed the order in council? When can we have final approval by order in council for this project?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I do not think Treasury Board