

*Oral Questions***BROADCASTING**

CONTROL OF ABUSIVE PROGRAMMING

Mr. Jack Masters (Thunder Bay-Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications. Pornography is an increasing concern to Canadians. At the moment the Subcommittee on Communications and Culture is studying sexual abuse in broadcasting. Is the Minister contemplating any action on Bill C-20, which is an Act to amend the Broadcasting Act, to address what is a very great concern to many Canadians?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, this is indeed an issue which we take very seriously. I have followed very closely the proceedings of the Special Committee on Communications and Culture which has heard a number of witnesses on this issue. I have also had the opportunity to discuss it at length with the Minister of State responsible for the Status of Women, and with my Cabinet colleagues. We have indeed decided to introduce an amendment to Bill C-20 to deal with the problem of abusive programming, particularly as it relates to women.

● (1440)

I think that this amendment will indeed make explicit the Government's commitment to the principle that all Canadians have the right to programming which respects the dignity and equality of individuals and groups. I would very much hope that we would have the co-operation of the Opposition to see to it that this amendment to Bill C-20, along with Bill C-20 as a whole, is adopted by the House as soon as possible.

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HOUSING

ALLOCATION OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works, who is responsible for housing. As the Minister knows, his Government allotted \$1.8 billion in 1983 to subsidize housing in Canada. Of that, \$372.5 million went to non profit housing, including co-ops, and \$393.4 million to publicly owned housing, which is about 41 per cent of the total. The other 59 per cent went to private profit builders and renovators.

Considering that private profit builders serve the more affluent people in Canada and that subsidies to them encourage inflation of housing costs, why did the Government give nearly three-fifths of the total subsidy to the affluent, and a little over two-fifths to the needy?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, while not accepting the Hon. Member's convoluted arithmetic, I would tell him that this Government, in social housing terms, has done a great deal. In fact, if the Hon. Member bothers to look at the annual expenditure, he will

realize that this Government does more than all of the provinces put together.

The Hon. Member also confuses different types of housing which constitute social housing. That is why, if he attends meetings like the one held in Toronto the other night, he may be tempted to confuse co-op housing and social housing. The reality is that the problem of co-operative housing concerns the percentage of those who are assisted and who benefit from the program. In fact the Hon. Member should know that the queue of those waiting for social housing, including singles, ex-psychiatric patients, and battered women, is growing longer. It is to these groups that I have tried to give some attention in the past couple of years.

Mr. Heap: If the Hon. Minister had accepted the invitation that he was extended to meet with 700 people on Tuesday, he could have presented that point directly and tried to make it credible. In fact, he dodges the arithmetic that he talks about.

FUNDING FOR CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has reduced the total social housing budget for this year by 10 per cent, to 22,500 allocations, but he has cut co-op housing by 45 per cent, to 3,339 allocations. Since his own CMHC report admitted last year that the capital costs of co-op housing are not significantly different from the capital costs of private profit housing, will he tell us why he has so savagely cut the allocations for co-op housing, and will he announce now where he will place the 7,653 allocations that he has not yet announced this far into 1984?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should know from answers in the House that in fact, for a number of years, we had been given more than the normal allocation in social housing units in order to create some economic activity. It was understood all along by those who bothered to find out that, at one point, we would come back to the 22,500 level, where we are this year.

As for the reduction in one type of social housing, co-op housing, again I say to the Hon. Member that, as we face the problems of homeless singles, the problem of ex-psychiatric patients who have nowhere to go, and as we face the problems of rural and native housing, housing those who are the worst housed people in our country, we had to do some reallocation, and that is what I have done.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

DEPARTMENT'S ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE NETWORK

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. It concerns the economic intelligence network of his Department, which appears to have been set up by someone who has seen too many B movies and felt it was necessary to