

saying, in relation to the reason why I did not choose to reduce or eliminate the 11 per cent tax on building materials, that I was confident that the amendments to the National Housing Act introduced by my colleague, the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, would provide a good, remedial measure for this problem.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question. I listened with great care to the minister's answer in reference to the 11 per cent sales tax, but in light of the fact that from December, 1971, to December, 1972, the cost of new housing increased by 12.5 per cent and the cost of building materials rose by 15.2 per cent—I refer the minister to Statistics Canada's Catalogue 62 for those figures—would he now reconsider his position in reference to the 11 per cent sales tax?

**Mr. Hees:** No, because David Lewis says no. That is the simple reason. David Lewis says you can't do it, and you don't dare do it.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, when the increase in housing costs or costs of renting are brought into the general income picture, they are brought by Statistics Canada into the category of service charges, and those were the figures to which I was referring.

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• (1430)

#### LABOUR RELATIONS

##### ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS' STRIKE—REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER CONVENE MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL MINISTERS TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** I have a further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In light of the fact that we now have serious unemployment, particularly in the building industry, and in light of the fact that the International Union of Elevator Constructors is on strike in nine provinces with a slowdown strike in the province of Quebec, throwing construction workers out of work by the thousands across the nation, would the Prime Minister now take the lead, in spite of his constitutional argument, and call together the ten provincial ministers of labour with a view to sitting down and getting this strike settled which is really motivated by an international union in the United States?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I shall certainly consider the request of the hon. member that I demand that the provincial premiers come and listen to my word on that.

**An hon. Member:** He did not say "demand".

#### Oral Questions

##### CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

##### REQUEST FOR TABLING OF CAPITAL BUDGET

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary on housing for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the fact the amount of money to be spent by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is of crucial importance to the government's housing plans, would the minister inform the House why the capital budget for CMHC has not been laid before parliament when in normal years it is before us by this time?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the capital budget is normally discussed when the estimates of the corporation go to the committee. I will be happy to see that the capital budget is laid before the House.

[Later:]

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. A few minutes ago I asked the Minister of State for Urban Affairs a question about the laying before parliament of the annual capital budget of CMHC. He said to the House that it was not the practice of the government to do so and that it would be brought before the appropriate committee at the appropriate time. My question of privilege is that inasmuch as in each year in recent history the government has laid the capital budget of CMHC before parliament the minister, if I understood him correctly, misinformed parliament, I assume inadvertently. I therefore ask him to explain the statement he made just a few moments ago.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is hardly a question of privilege. I suggest to the hon. member that it might be the subject of a supplementary question. Perhaps the minister might be allowed to reply to the hon. member's point by way of a supplementary answer to the alleged question of privilege.

**Mr. Basford:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to check the precise words in the blues. What I said was that it was the practice to examine the capital budget when the estimates of the corporation were being examined and that if the hon. member has questions to ask they will be answered when the estimates go to the committee. I also said I would be happy to lay the capital budget before parliament. I hardly see that there is any misinformation being given to parliament.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I will return to the hon. member in a moment.

[Later:]

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, I repeat the point that the minister said a while ago that it was not customary to lay the capital budget before parliament. He has now acknowledged that it is and I should now like to ask him when he will lay that budget before parliament?

**Mr. Basford:** In accordance with the usual practice, Mr. Speaker.