

*Oral Questions*

If the hon. gentleman would send me over whatever telex he says he has, I will certainly look into it. As far as I am concerned, anyone who has to have admittance into these areas should be required to be checked, or they should have a person who has been cleared going with them.

Everyone cannot be checked in 24 hours, so the system is that if you are a new employee you are allowed into these restricted areas as long as you have somebody accompanying you who has been cleared.

Perhaps that is what has been proposed in this situation. If not, I will look into it, but it would be nice to have the information first so that you can check out these matters rather than somebody just trying to catch you with a fast one in the Question Period.

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**CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION****LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN TORONTO**

**Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Metro Toronto has become a place where lower and middle-income earners find it easy to get work but almost impossible to locate affordable housing.

The average wage earner cannot afford a house costing more than \$135,000, but last month the average selling price in Metro was \$186,000 for a family home, and many families are having to spend 40 per cent more of their income for rent.

What hope can the Minister give these people and what information can he give the House that we can prevent this problem from becoming a crisis?

**Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his continuing interest in housing matters relative to Toronto and indeed to all Canada.

In the last three years we have had record housing starts throughout Canada and in Toronto. All the funds in my portfolio, namely, \$1.5 billion, are devoted to those most in need. In Toronto in the last year we constructed some 4,500 new units. In Canada we either constructed or renovated some 55,000 units for those most in need.

The province also indicated that they were very interested and have an obligation to respond. They did that in their platform. We are anxiously waiting to see what particulars they will put forward to accommodate the need in co-operation with the federal Government.

[*Translation*]

**REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT****MONTRÉAL EST—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, and it concerns regional development.

We know, from his answer to my colleague for Shefford, that people in Matane are to be congratulated because my feeling is they won, although unfortunately they had to spend money to come here and beg. Not that this Conservative government wanted to help them, it is simply that the people from Matane forced its hand.

Now, people from the Eastern sector of Montreal want to know how long they will have to wait. This Conservative government has been dragging its feet for three years now about this matter. This morning, the City of Montreal announced its economic recovery plan for Montreal's Eastern sector and here is what I would like to know from the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion: What are his plans to pave the way to Montreal Eastern sector's economic recovery? Is he ready to give respond to the CREM report, Mr. Pichette's report? The Minister has had that report for two weeks now and we are waiting for his answer.

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, it seems to me it took a lot less time for the previous Government to break down the economy in Montreal East than it took to restore its vitality as we have been doing during the past three years. If we look at the number of jobs created in the Montreal area, we realize it is one of the areas with the fastest increase in employment across this country.

I wish the Hon. Member would look at his statistics and stick to the facts when asking a question. At least it would be easier to give an intelligent answer.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF RAILWAY TRANSPORT PREFERENTIAL PURCHASING POLICY**

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, the employee at Vickers was right: The Minister isn't dragging his feet, he can't even walk.

The Minister's answer proves he did not read the CREM Report. In Montreal East, the employment rate is 12 percent. It hasn't gone down in three years. I suggest the Hon. Member and Minister read the CREM report.

This is what the people of Montreal East want: They are sick and tired of the Minister's song and dance. Is the Minister going to respond to the CREM report? Will the signing of the Free Trade Agreement with United States prevent the Government from carrying out one of the proposals made by the Montreal East Committee, which was to establish a preferential procurement policy with respect to rolling stock?