

*Inquiries of the Ministry***HOUSING**DISCUSSIONS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
RESPECTING RATES ON MORTGAGE FUNDS

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the minister in charge of housing. I wonder if the minister will tell us what are the results of the consultations he had with various financial institutions on the subject of mortgage moneys and interest rates?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I had useful meetings with the representatives of the banks on Monday, the insurance companies on Wednesday, and the trust companies yesterday. We covered a wide range of subject matters, including emphasis on measures to be taken as a result of amendments to the National Housing Act. The financial institutions are now in a better position to enter more actively into the residential housing market, and I believe have an obligation to do so. I talked to them about the possibility of increasing their lending for modest housing, even though that might mean some reduction in lending for luxury homes. We talked about further measures to improve our relations and the contacts between us, and we agreed to meet at least twice a year with more formal and precise agendas in order to make these meetings more meaningful.

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask whether these financial institutions agreed that the level of interest rates fixed by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation was sufficiently high, or is it to go higher?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, the National Housing Act amendment freed the interest rate at which N.H.A. insured loans can be made. Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation set its own direct lending rate, for the present time, at 9 per cent. I think this will have some influence on the activity of approved lenders.

INCOME TAX

DELAY IN PAYMENT OF REFUNDS

Mr. Robert P. Kaplan (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Is he seeking for the government new sources of revenue through the device of delaying income tax refunds?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question as asked is similar to one asked yesterday

[Mr. Jamieson.]

although, as I recognize, it is in a somewhat different form.

AIR TRANSPORTSERVICE OF AIR LINE PILOTS UNDER
CONDITIONS OF FATIGUE

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Since the minister this morning made a statement about air safety with respect to air traffic controllers, will he be in a position to make a statement within the next few days about another aspect of air safety? Allegations have been brought forward in this house concerning complaints that pilots of Air Canada and other air lines have been given permission by Department of Transport officials to fly up to 150 hours a month.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, there are no such pilots to our knowledge. Certainly there has not been any such permission given.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question asked by the hon. member was whether a statement would be made. The second part of the question was ruled out of order some days ago.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): A supplementary to the Minister of Finance. Would he take note of the straightforward way that the minister answers—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: —and try to do a hell of a lot better—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must again seek the co-operation of the hon. member to look to the direction of the Chair.

Mr. Hees: He can teach you a lot!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

PENITENTIARIESSPRINGHILL, N.S.—TRANSFER OF INMATES TO
OTHER MINIMUM SECURITY ACCOMMODATION

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): I wish to direct a question to the Solicitor General, and ask him whether the minimum security institution at Springhill is being closed? If so, what arrangements are being made to deal with those inmates who have been so successfully treated in that institution?