

• (1130)

Also as the minister knows, whatever the nuance or difference between those statistics may be, the alarming reality is that we still have over one million children living in poverty. That presumably to him, as well as to me, is unacceptable.

[Translation]

The last question concerns what the Government does concretely to finance home building.

Ten years ago, the government financed the construction of 30,000 new homes. Now it is only 20,000, a major reduction.

Would the Government, and the minister speaks for the government today, would the minister announce today or soon that this figure of 20,000 will be increased to provide more adequate housing for the poor in Canada?

[English]

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, again the hon. gentleman is asking me as Minister of National Health and Welfare to make announcements on behalf of my colleague. He could more properly put the question to him.

What I can do, though, is give the House some information about the progress that has been made in dealing with poverty during the tenure of this government. Some 550,000 Canadians have escaped poverty since the government took office according to Statistics Canada low income measures. The poverty rate declined to 14.1 per cent in 1987 from 16.8 per cent in 1984. The child tax credit was increased by more than 50 per cent between 1984 and 1989.

In addition a new CTC supplement for children aged six years and under was introduced. There was a refundable sales tax credit introduced in 1986 to help support low income families. It will double by 1990 to \$140 per adult and \$70 per child.

The 1988 income tax reform removed 850,000 Canadians from the tax rolls. I accept the point the hon. gentleman makes that as long as there is one Canadian who lives in poverty, as long as there is one Canadian who cannot share the benefits of the prosperity that we have in society, more needs to be done.

Oral Question

I think we are on the right track. The fact that we have reduced poverty in Canada and that we continue to do so indicates both the commitment on the part of the government and the knowledge on the part of the government on how to achieve this.

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FEDERAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for the Federal Business Development Bank.

Yesterday the minister refused to table in the House a list of all strip joints funded directly or indirectly by the Federal Business Development Bank, preferring to tell members and Canadians that such information was available from the House of Commons Order Paper.

Now we discover through the media that the minister has ordered a probe of the FBDB to determine how many such loans have been made.

Given that such is the case, is the minister now prepared to commit himself to tabling the list, either now if he has it or as soon as it is provided to him by the officials of the Federal Business Development Bank? If not, why not?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, I do not believe the hon. member is accurate in stating what was asked of me yesterday, nor my response. I was asked yesterday for a list of notaries and legal agents who work for the FBDB, and my response to that was that that is more properly directed to the Order Paper.

I do not recall in answer to the member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell mentioning the Order Paper at all, so I think he has mixed up a couple of questions there. I think he should reread *Hansard* from yesterday.

On the question of the propriety of funding nightclubs that feature this kind of entertainment I think I have answered quite clearly. It is improper. We have beefed up the policy of the bank to make sure it does not happen again.

I have asked the bank to examine and to make sure if, in looking back over the records, it is able to establish a