

[English]

CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

SUGGESTED WITHHOLDING OF DECISION ON DUMP UNTIL CITIZENS OF BEDFORD AND SACKVILLE COMPLETE COURT CASE

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs or in his absence to his parliamentary secretary. Notice has been given of the question. Would he agree that no final decision should be made by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, which reports to this body, regarding the request by the province of Nova Scotia to locate a dump on CMHC owned lands until residents of the future town of Bedford backed by the residents of a future city of Sackville, both in my constituency, have had their day in court and that right has been upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada?

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, without prejudice to the matter in the courts, the minister has written to the minister of provincial affairs in Nova Scotia and told him that, although there would appear to be no impediment to CMHC getting involved in such a project as the land fill project at Jack's Lake, he has reservations about the possibility of CMHC going ahead because of the strong sentiments voiced by the people in the area and also because of the decision that was taken by the provincial government to change the original plans for the dump. We think the Beaverbrook change was the decision of the province and therefore it is up to them to bite the bullet.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

FEDERAL JOB CREATION PROGRAMS—MEETING OF FIRST MINISTERS REQUESTED BY PREMIER SCHREYER—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Prime Minister and remind him that in his absence the Premier of Manitoba, Edward Schreyer voiced his concern about job creation and said there would probably be a federal program regarding jobs and called for a meeting of first ministers. Now that the Prime Minister has returned, in order to deal with this very serious matter, has such a meeting been requested by the Premier of Manitoba for this fall and if so, has the Prime Minister indicated his intention in this regard?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, some weeks ago the premier wrote to me suggesting a meeting of first ministers on the economic situation in general and the employment situation in particular. I do not recall having answered that letter while I was away in London but I will check if an answer has been sent on my behalf in my absence.

Oral Questions

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Prime Minister has made sure that in his absence a reply was sent to this very important letter.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES—REPORT OF ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF CANADA—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance is obviously concerned as well so I will direct a supplementary question to him. On May 31 the hon. member for Halifax asked the minister whether he registered his concern about a recent report by the Economic Council of Canada entitled "Living Together" in which it was indicated a much greater jump takes place in the rate of unemployment in the Atlantic provinces than the rest of Canada during a national recession. He also wanted to know if the minister would study the report and discuss it with the premiers of the Atlantic provinces. Has the minister had an opportunity to look into this report, and in light of the very keen and sincere interest registered by the hon. member for Halifax, is it his intention to meet with his colleagues in the Atlantic provinces to deal with this very serious matter of jobs which is adversely affecting the economic life of the area?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I recently sent a response to the hon. member for Halifax on this particular matter which was prepared by my officials after examining the report. The response is the usual stunning complexity of the Department of Finance. I would be glad to send a copy to the hon. member so that he can study it, however. It would indicate some disagreement with some of the assumptions made by the Economic Council of Canada.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the minister's reply. I think he completely ignored the second part of my question. In light of the serious unemployment situation faced by the Atlantic provinces, and given the fact that the Prime Minister will likely get in touch with the Premier of Manitoba to arrange a first ministers' conference, would the minister without hesitation contact his counterparts in the Atlantic provinces so that a meeting can be arranged to deal with this very serious situation. Can the minister answer that question without giving me all this gobbledygook?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member asked if I had replied to the question of the hon. member for Halifax. I said yes, and I will be glad to send him a copy of it. I do not know what can be more direct than that.

Mr. Alexander: Are you going to have a meeting or not?

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[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING STATION CJBR-TV RIMOUSKI

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State.