

[Translation]

IMMIGRATION**BILINGUALISM—OBLIGATION FOR HAITIAN IMMIGRANTS TO USE INTERPRETERS**

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration if he intends to take the necessary action to ensure that French-speaking Haitian immigrants can use the French language in their dealings with the officials of his department? They must now utilize the services of interpreters as was revealed recently by a committee on human rights.

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly look into this and take the representation of the hon. member under consideration.

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[Translation]

PUBLIC WORKS**MEASURES TO IMPROVE BILINGUALISM WITHIN DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Could the Minister of Public Works tell us if he foresees a possibility of improving the services offered in French by the marine works division of his department with which it is now impossible to communicate in French?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, it is the first time such a complaint has been directed to my department. I can assure hon. members that I will take every appropriate action in order that both official languages be available for those who call at my department.

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[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**COST OF LIVING INCREASE—RATE OF FEDERAL TAXATION AND COST OF GOVERNMENT AS FACTOR**

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has the federal government made any study of the impact of the high rate of federal taxation coupled with the general rapidly rising cost of government on all levels as a factor in the rising cost of living?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have analysed the effect of taxation on every aspect of the economy, including the cost of living.

Mr. MacLean: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister whether he has concluded from his study that action should be taken by the government to do its part directly in lowering the cost of living by lowering taxation rates?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I have certainly got the point of view of the hon. member, but this is not quite the appropriate occasion on which to answer his question.

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Oral Questions

• (1130)

INCREASE IN COST OF HOUSING—ALLEGED CONSENT BY CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs responsible for housing. In view of the fact that the cost of shelter has increased by 5.3 per cent within the last year and therefore the cost of housing has reached crisis proportions, would the minister take into consideration the fact that Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is consenting to an increase in the rents for various accommodation and housing units in the largest urban centres of Canada and by that consent is increasing the cost of shelter which has contributed to the present position of the index that has just been quoted?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, with regard to housing that is owned or managed by CMHC, I answered the question the other day by saying that I am reviewing the rent policy and no increases are taking place while that review is going on. I understand, however, that the hon. member's question probably concerns limited dividend housing which is not managed by CMHC and, in fact, where the owners negotiate an increase in rent commensurate only with the increase in costs. Those arrangements are constantly under review.

Mr. Woolliams: I am referring to those leases that govern the cost of renting various types of accommodation across the country where increases can only take place with the consent of CMHC. Will the minister now agree to freeze any further increases so far as CMHC is concerned to help pensioners and others on fixed incomes?

Mr. Basford: I just made it clear that I have frozen the rents of those buildings that we manage until we can review them.

INCREASE IN COST OF FUEL OIL—COMPOSITION OF GROUP STUDYING SUPPLY SITUATION

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I now want to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In light of the fact that fuel has gone up by 3.9 per cent, would the minister, who stated in the House that a study is being carried out on the shortage or the propaganda on a shortage of energy, advise us who is heading this study and whether the members of this task force study group are members of the public service or of government agencies rather than people from private corporations?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the studies are being carried out by my own department and by the National Energy Board. If the hon. gentleman is objecting to increases in the cost of energy, he might direct himself to Premier Lougheed in this context as well.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact the Minister of National Defence has agreed with the policy of