

py with our energy policy I can refute by referring to an editorial in the United States *Oil & Gas Journal* which says:

The engine of energy security—petroleum exploration—is humming in Canada and sputtering in the U.S.

It goes on to say:

The administration of Brian Mulroney is living up to its promise. Canada is better for it.

TIMING OF GOVERNMENT DECISION

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, the Government is stalling. It is sloughing off a decision on this upgrader. Alberta and Saskatchewan are not happy because of that. The people in Lloydminster are suffering. When is the Government going to approve this package so this project can start and these much needed jobs can be put in place?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has been continually told about the report on the risk assessment of this project which was signed days before the Liberal leadership convention and could have consequences for the country which involve a very high risk. We have already explained to the House that it was only prudent to look at the terms of this agreement which was signed in a highly political environment by the former Government. We have also advised that the risk assessment has been completed and is being studied by our Department. Meetings are scheduled to take place shortly.

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● (1510)

CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

HOUSING PROJECT IN SACKVILLE, N.S.

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Hon. Minister of Labour who is responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. CMHC contracted for the building of at least 23 shell houses on Howland Crescent in Sackville, Nova Scotia, in about 1972. Due to the faulty and poorly inspected construction permitted by CMHC, these roofs are now so rotten that the present owners must replace them.

Will the Minister tell the House why CMHC and he have declined to bear the cost of replacing these roofs and why he has declined to send a report to the local member of the legislature which he promised to do half a year ago?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, to correct the Hon. Member, CMHC did not contract to build the houses, but provided loans to the shell housing program. CMHC did an inspection for value because of the mortgages ensured by the mortgage insurance fund. The builder built the buildings.

That being the case, Mr. Speaker, CMHC has contacted half of the individuals, has inspected the homes, has offered to

Point of Order—Mr. Hovdebo

provide additional RRAP money, and has offered to assist in refinancing the mortgages even to the point where CHMC will attempt to capitalize the interest so that there is not an undue burden on those homeowners.

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CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions, with the exception of 35, presented by Hon. Members on Wednesday, December 11, 1985, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

Certain petitions presented by Hon. Members for York West (Mr. Marchi), Laval (Mr. Ricard), Saint-Léonard-Anjou (Mr. Gagliano), Skeena (Mr. Fulton), Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Parry), Broadview-Greenwood (Ms. McDonald), Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis), Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy), and Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell) do not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

The petition presented by the Hon. Member for Rimouski-Témiscouata (Mrs. Vézina) by filing with the Clerk of the House also meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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POINT OF ORDER

REQUEST FOR CORRECTION OF STATEMENT BY MR. DE COTRET

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order arising out of Question Period. Perhaps the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret) would like to correct a statement made while giving an answer rather than mislead the House. The Financial Administration Act specifically states that if a directive is given to the Crown corporation the House must table that—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order, please. This is not a question of order, this is a matter for debate or opinion.

Mr. Deans: No.

Mr. Speaker: It is not a question of order. I take it the Hon. Member disagrees with the validity of the answer of the Minister. He has the right to use the "Late Show" for that, as he knows. This is not a question of order.

Mr. Hovdebo: Mr. Speaker, I then rise on a question of privilege. He did mislead the House. Perhaps he would like to correct it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I remind the Hon. Member that he does have the option of using the "Late Show" if he does not like the answer he got. If he is now raising a question of privilege in an attempt to make a comment about another Member, I would remind him that I cannot hear that as a