

*Oral Questions***CAPITAL PUNISHMENT**

REQUEST FOR VOTE ON PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, last month in the House I asked the Solicitor General a question which dealt with allowing one of the many private members' bills on capital punishment to come to a vote rather than it being talked out by members of the government party. The minister suggested I ask the government House leader that question since it was in his jurisdiction to determine whether matters of this nature should be allowed to come to a vote.

I will ask my question of the government House leader. Would he give serious consideration to allowing one of the many dozens of private members' bills concerning a return to capital punishment to come to a vote in this House of Commons and not be talked out by members of the government party?

Mr. Jelinek: And if not, why not?

[Translation]

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I am advised that a similar bill was discussed not very long ago. I think it would be advisable to give a fair opportunity to all members who have sponsored private bills. We will follow the order established in the Standing Orders and in the order paper. I am convinced that the hon. member does not want us to violate the Standing Orders and deprive other members who have very interesting bills to discuss and are waiting their turn.

[English]

Mr. Domm: Madam Speaker, it is not giving everyone in this House a fair opportunity if the government will not allow a bill to come to a vote.

My supplementary question is also directed to the government House leader. If he will not listen to the opposition and allow these bills to come to a vote, would he listen to the people of Canada who through three years in a row have been surveyed? Gallup polls indicate that 70 per cent to 75 per cent of the people support a return to capital punishment. If the minister will not listen to the opposition, will he listen to the people of Canada and at least allow one of these bills to come to a free vote in this House of Commons, as promised by the former Conservative government?

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I am advised, if I am not mistaken, that when the matter was discussed during private members' hour not long ago in this session, it was a Conservative member who indeed talked that bill out. In that case it was the hon. member for Edmonton East.

[English]

HOUSING

AHOP—ASSISTANCE RESPECTING SHELTER COSTS

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works who is responsible for CMHC. My question is with respect to AHOP. Under the program 30 per cent of income is allowed for housing for people who are suffering very severely. Mortgage rates have increased from 8 per cent to 15 per cent or 16 per cent. How did the minister inform AHOP owners of this plan, and how many have taken advantage of it?

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I assume the hon. member is speaking about the program change introduced in March of this year. That change guaranteed those people in the program whose shelter costs exceeded 30 per cent that those additional costs would be underwritten by the corporation and not be part of the demand for payment either under their repayment plan or part of their loan forgiveness. My understanding is that at the end of October approximately 420 people had qualified and had taken advantage of that provision. It was administered in the various local offices of CMHC across Canada.

Mr. McDermid: Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the minister, if the program is working so well, why 50 to 75 homes per month in my area of the county of Peel alone are being returned to CMHC. What is the minister going to do about that?

Mr. Cosgrove: Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to advise the hon. member that since the program change was announced in March of last year, the rate of claims against the fund has decreased. The number of defaults against AHOP has decreased. The problem is diminishing. Although it is severe in the hon. member's riding—and I appreciate that—I would like to indicate to the hon. member that when we consider that approximately 139,000 families took advantage of the program, and when there is a decrease in defaults we are indeed hopeful that the improvement will be to the advantage of all.

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● (1450)

SHIPPINGSUPERTANKER EXPERIMENT IN STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Science and Technology and the Minister of the Environment. Recently he informed me that there is inadequate equipment on the coast of British Columbia to clean up an oil spill. A recently released United States coastguard report predicts that tanker traffic on the British Columbia coast will cause three major crude oil spills per year. Now the United States plans to bring a very large