

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

during the current year. The reassessment of the applications for public housing, in various stages of processing, including low rental subsidized housing, housing for elderly persons, housing for students, etc., gave us an indication of what the total would be for the fiscal year and enabled us to make a decision which would allow us to use during the current fiscal year all the funds available for housing and maximize the construction which would take place during the current fiscal year.

I can therefore say to my hon. friend that in so far as the expenditures that were announced last week are concerned, this will mean a net addition to the housing starts for the current year and a very real aid in providing additional accommodation for Canadians who need it, without at the same time making it necessary to cut back on any of the other programs which are intended.

**Mr. Lewis:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand the minister to say—whether or not one agrees with his suggestion that housing will be available to those who need it—that in effect the amount of money which had originally been allocated to public housing will not be spent this year, but that some of it has been added to the amount which is to be spent in private building?

**Mr. Hellyer:** The majority of the money for this program had originally been allocated for family accommodation. This was supplemented by an increment of about \$50 million which was estimated to be a shortfall in other programs due to the fact that a reassessment of the various stages of planning indicated that money would not be spent on them during this year.

**Mr. Lewis:** I am sorry to press this, Mr. Speaker, but I have a further supplementary question. The minister said there was a shortfall in other programs. I am asking him whether that shortfall, as he calls it, was in the public housing sector.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Mr. Speaker, it is only a question of estimating the expenditures. At the beginning of the year Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation had to estimate the projects which would come in from the provinces and other agencies in all these categories. Their estimates and their anticipation were in some cases greater than the facts proved, and it was because of this that we felt we should take a decision now to use all

[Mr. Hellyer.]

the funds that were available, notwithstanding the fact that it meant a reallocation. I think my hon. friend should rejoice that the government has taken such a decision.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The two hon. members seem to be entering into a debate on this subject.

[Translation]

**AIRPORTS****MONTREAL—EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE  
FOR TAXI SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Transport.

The honourable minister says that at the Montreal international airport, at Dorval, the Murray Hill Co. takes care exclusively of the transportation of paying passengers. In view of the fact that many petitions have been submitted to the department by the Montreal Taxi Owners Association, requesting permission to carry passengers from the international airport to Montreal or outside the city, I should like to ask the minister if he can tell us today whether his department has reached a decision so as to recognize the undeniable rights of the people involved in taxi transportation in Montreal?

**Mr. Speaker:** This question goes quite far back I think, in the history of the previous session of parliament, so that it could be placed on the order paper.

**Mr. Caouette:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Since it goes back rather far, I wonder if you would not allow the minister to answer. Indeed, it is becoming urgent after such a long time.

[English]

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE****REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO ORGANIZED AND  
SYNDICATED CRIME IN CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Solicitor General whether it is the intention of the federal government to set up a royal commission or a quasi-judicial body to conduct a full probe into crime in accordance with Prime Minister Bertrand's suggestion. He has alleged that crime is on the increase and that there has been a continual increase in gang murders.