

I was getting evasive answers from officials at all levels of government, early in the game. I think I have finally got some people pinned up against the wall where they are either going to have to produce the documents themselves or at least give the statutory authority for keeping them.

I have as yet been unable to resolve the matter finally and to my satisfaction.

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NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

REQUEST THAT CANADIAN SHIPBUILDERS BE ABLE TO BID COMPETITIVELY FOR CARRYING MINERALS

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and it relates to the development side of his portfolio. In a recent press release, the minister indicated that one-half of the concentrates from the Polaris mine on little Cornwallis Island would be carried by a Canadian flagship, the m.v. *Arctic*. The minister said that preference for the other 50 per cent would be given by Cominco to Canadian ships if available and competitive.

I should like the minister to tell the House exactly what he had in mind that would make it possible for the Canadian shipbuilding industry to bid competitively on this project.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question. I want to indicate to the hon. member that the first 50 per cent of the concentrates from the Arvik mine will be carried by Canarctic. I want also to indicate to him that through the strong co-operation of the Minister of Transport steps have been taken and agreements reached with Cominco that, on the second 50 per cent as well, an attempt will be made to put Canadian shipping into place.

The point that has to be made is that this government is interested in developing further ice technology and shipping capability in Canada's north. We are a country with a great potential in the north and, therefore, I believe we should be leaders in northern ice technology. The Minister of Transport has agreed with that and he and I are working co-operatively to attempt to develop further merchant marine in order that our northern development can take place under Canadian flagships.

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HOUSING

EFFECT OF MORTGAGE INTEREST DEDUCTIBILITY PLAN ON HOUSING STARTS

Mr. Arthur Phillips (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. There have been several questions from hon. members who are concerned about the lay-offs in the plywood and other parts of the B.C. forest industry,

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relating to what I think everyone now clearly recognizes as a collapse in the housing industry. I think what we have seen is just the tip of the iceberg.

In view of the fact that the mortgage interest deductibility plan has not had the effect the government expected, of stimulating a great increase in housing starts—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Already.

Mr. Phillips:—what additional means—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Phillips: Remember that the mere promise of it was to do this.

An hon. Member: That's right.

An hon. Member: You are not on television now.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member put his question now.

Mr. Phillips: Mr. Speaker, yes, man!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Phillips: I should not address the Chair as "Master", should I? What additional measures, other than the proposed one-year mortgages that the minister has mentioned, is he planning for Canada Mortgage and Housing to relieve what may well be a crisis in the residential construction industry?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, all hon. members will realize that the present time, with the current interest rates, is not a good and feasible proposition for development to take place. We are studying methods that might alleviate the situation slightly but, frankly, as long as interest rates remain at their present high levels I cannot see any great improvement that would be possible to stimulate construction.

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SHIPBUILDING

PROPOSALS TO INCREASE CANADIAN CAPACITY

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the junior Minister of State for Transport. In the Speech from the Throne, and during the election campaign, the Conservative party spoke in terms of building a strong Canadian shipbuilding presence. In the first five months of this year, the number of foreign-built ships brought into this country increased from 14 to 28. A spokesman for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans stated two months ago that it would be financially disastrous to build fishing boats in Canada.