

Quai d'Orsay Loan

the government. I therefore move, seconded by either the Minister of Finance or the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas):

That this House, noting that the salaries of 29 top officers of Bell Canada in 1977 will average \$102,000 a year, an average increase over 1976 of \$13,000, calls on the government to take the necessary steps to block this flagrant violation of its own anti-inflation guidelines which limit an annual salary increase to \$2,400, it also being the view of this House that Bell Canada has no right to seek telephone rate increases to enable it to pay such high salaries at the top.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The presentation of such a motion for debate pursuant to the Standing Order can only be done with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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● (1110)

CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

PROPOSED INVESTIGATION OF LOAN MADE TO QUAI D'ORSAY HOTEL—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the fact that serious questions have been raised about the legality of CMHC insuring a mortgage loan between 210 Somerset Corporation and National Trust for the building of the Hotel Quai d'Orsay, which was subsequently foreclosed by National Trust, and in view of the fact that one of the former principals of 210 Somerset Corporation is presently associated with the building of a \$30 million apartment complex in Laval, Quebec, with financing again provided by National Trust and insured by CMHC, I move, seconded by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath):

That the minister cause a complete investigation to be made into the circumstances involved in the guaranteeing by CMHC of loans in connection with the above mentioned projects and report to the House as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: Presentation of such a motion under the terms of Standing Order 43 requires unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: No!

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

MANPOWER

ALLEGED FAILURE OF JOB CREATION PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration regarding the latest job vacancy figures which only add to the evidence of the government's mismanagement of the economy and its incompetence in the field of job creation. Noting that there is a 21 per cent drop in the job vacancy rate from the three-month average ending in November and a 17 per cent drop compared to the same period of last year—in fact, the job vacancy rate has dropped in all provinces except Newfoundland—I would ask the minister in all sincerity whether he will now concede that the government's job creation program is a complete disaster calling for immediate action.

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, I disagree with most of the premise to the hon. member's question except the part where he says he is sincere when he asks it. I would again commend to him a careful reading of the statement made by my associate deputy minister, Mr. Jack Mannion, before the committee on labour, manpower and immigration. He said then that the statistic put out by Statistics Canada showing the job vacancy rate is misleading, and explained that last year between five million and seven million Canadians actually changed jobs—ours is an extremely dynamic economy in that respect. To use this statistic in the way the hon. member has used it is most misleading.

Mr. Alexander: I do not think the one million who are out of work and the 291,000 who have dropped out of the work force because there are no jobs available to them will find that answer very acceptable. Let us show more sensitivity to those who are experiencing human suffering. What additional measures are to be introduced to help those seeking employment for whom no jobs are available? Must they wait until around September when the effects of the budget are noticed?

An hon. Member: If there are any.

Mr. Cullen: Fortunately, the government announced back in October, 1976 that we were aware there would be high unemployment this winter. We set aside \$358 million, and there are \$1,300,000 worth of sensitivity in my department which goes to direct job creation.

REQUEST FOR BUDGETARY PROVISIONS GEARED TO JOB CREATION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Statistics Canada figures show that in the last six months 291,000 people who were seeking employment have given up looking for work and are no longer in the labour force, believing no