

Research Council and also some universities, are currently studying that important question. But right now I repeat, that nothing shows that there is an immediate danger for people's lives, but that is an extremely serious problem which is being looked at very closely by all scientists.

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[English]

HOUSING

PROGRAM FOR NATIVES IN URBAN CENTRES—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George—Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. It is with regard to the decision by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to cut off the support program to native housing groups in the larger centres such as Winnipeg, Edmonton and Calgary. In light of the fact that the minister, recognizing the special problems associated with the increasing migration of native people to the cities, has repeatedly promised that a native housing policy for the cities would be established, can he explain why this latest step has not been taken and what remedial action is being proposed before the end of this month?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there certainly have not been any programs cut off or concluded. There are certain programs which are desired by native people in the urban areas that are not possible under present legislation. We are working very closely with them. I recognize, as does the hon. member, the particular nature and growing urgency of the problem of urban native people. I repeat, no programs have been cut off and we are working with them. I was to meet with a group yesterday which unfortunately could not get here because of some difficulty with aircraft. We are continuing on that and indeed emphasizing those programs that are at work now as well as trying to expand upon them. There are some programs that cannot work at the present time, because of provisions relating to ownership as opposed to rental. Unfortunately, I cannot give an answer on it before the end of this month, as much as I would like to.

Mr. Oberle: In the case of Winnipeg in particular, there will be a massive layoff of people who have seasonally and assiduously managed to succumb to their own desperate situation. In view of the fact the minister has promised for three years that there would be a special policy that would address itself to the problems of native housing, particularly in the cities, will the minister, in spite of the air strike, establish a moratorium over the policy of CMHC that has come to light in the past few days?

Mr. Danson: Mr. Speaker, no final policy came to light in the past few days. There is a committee that has been working on this, but no final decisions have been made on that at this time.

Oral Questions

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REASON FOR RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL TO FOUR COUNTRIES ON MEMBERS' PASSPORTS

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will the minister explain to the House under what authority restrictions were placed on passports of members of this House dated June 3, 1976, for four countries. What were the circumstances leading up to those restrictions being imposed? I ask this with particular regard to Taiwan where there is no civil strife, contrary to the three other countries in which civil strife may be anticipated. I am referring to restrictions on travel to North Korea, Namibia, Rhodesia and Taiwan. In particular, would the minister explain why members of this House are forbidden, according to their passports, from travelling to Taiwan?

● (1430)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I would like to examine the question and reply to the hon. member, probably tomorrow.

An hon. Member: No way; it is a holiday.

Mr. Wagner: St. Jean Baptiste Day.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Would the Secretary of State inquire into the practice whereby personnel in the passport section call in the passports of members who are taking part in parliamentary delegations under the pretext of endorsing their passports accordingly, and then enter restrictions in the passports without giving prior notice?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will do that.

CANADIAN POSITION AT OECD CONFERENCE CONCERNING RATE OF GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo—Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It arises from an OECD report which suggests there is to be a lower rate of growth and lower employment. According to a news item from Paris in this morning's paper, the Canadian delegation agreed with the thrust of the final OECD communiqué, noting that it was consistent with present government policy in Ottawa. I ask the Secretary of State to tell us what it was that our delegation agreed to, and in what way our position at the OECD can be reconciled with the statement just made by the Prime Minister that we were pursuing our own course at the conference.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I have not seen the final communiqué but I do know that one of the questions before the OECD was the attitude of the industrialized countries toward future growth, the context within which future growth should be undertaken and the extent to which the policies of the industrialized countries could be harmonized. As I understand it, the thrust of the final proposal by the Secretary General was that the industrialized countries ought to support economic growth in the future but not to the extent that this would bring about unacceptable levels