

Oral Questions

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I am afraid that I will have to take notice of the question on behalf of the Minister. I do not know of any date.

REQUEST THAT AGREEMENT BE DEBATED IN PARLIAMENT

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister as well. In the United States matters of this importance are usually discussed by the House of Representatives. Just recently the MX program was turned down there because of financial implications and the concern about nuclear arms. Will the Prime Minister assure us that there will be some debate in this House on the whole umbrella agreement, specifically on the use of the Cruise missile over Canadian territory, before the agreement is finally signed, so that we can voice the concerns of our constituents who have been writing to us about the Cruise missile question?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I agree with the Hon. Member that the question is extraordinarily important. I hope the New Democratic Party would view it as important enough to give perhaps one of its opposition days to debate the subject.

* * *

ENERGY

MEETINGS BETWEEN FEDERAL AND NEWFOUNDLAND
MINISTERS

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Minister met in St. John's yesterday with his Newfoundland counterpart. Can he tell us whether, arising out of that meeting, we can expect a resumption of formal negotiations on the offshore? Can we also expect a degree of flexibility from the Minister which hopefully could lead to a settlement?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I had meetings last Friday in Montreal and this Monday in St. John's. We explored new avenues which could lead to a resolution of this problem. I guess the fact that we have had two meetings is a good sign. I am well known for my flexibility, but at the same time I have to protect the interests of the Canadian Government.

JOINT MANAGEMENT AND REVENUE SHARING PROPOSAL

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Madam Speaker, could the Minister be more specific and tell us whether or not he is prepared to deal with the Newfoundland compromise proposal on joint management and revenue sharing?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, we have explored new avenues, and Mr. Marshall and myself have agreed that our two governments should not necessarily maintain their previous

positions and that they should try to seek new alternatives. That is exactly what we are trying to do at this time.

* * *

[English]

HOUSING

COMMITMENT TO NON-PROFIT AND SOCIAL HOUSING IN
ONTARIO

Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for housing. Yesterday I had the opportunity to ask the Minister of State for Finance whether or not the reports that social housing, co-op housing and non-profit housing had been reduced by over 600 units in the Province of Ontario were correct. He indicated that he could not confirm that figure but found it surprising and shocking. Could the Minister confirm the figure today?

● (1500)

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I heard the exchange. In fact my colleague dealt with the Hon. Member very effectively. The reality is that the social housing budget has been consistent since 1979, with some variations, but over all the statistics would show that the average has been very well respected. In fact, it has been more than respected.

The Province of Ontario, in the area of social housing, has benefited from 30 per cent to 38 per cent over the same period. It, too, has been dealt with very fairly. In the debate taking place, I think probably caused by some statement by the Minister of Housing for Ontario, the point was not made that the allocation of municipal non-profit housing units, 75 per cent paid by the federal Government, is at the total discretion of the Minister of Housing for Ontario.

REDUCTION OF PROJECTS IN TORONTO

Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale): Madam Speaker, the figures that are in the hands not only of the Province of Ontario but of the City of Toronto and of metropolitan Toronto are that in 1982 the allocation from the federal Government was 7,418 and the allocation for 1983 is 6,688. Those are the actual figures with which they are working. The city has now taken an action to reduce five projects, all co-op and social housing, including those dealing with handicapped and disturbed children. Would the Minister check with his own officials and confirm those facts? Right now those projects are being halted as a result of the information which they have from officials in CMHC. Would the Minister check those facts and get in touch with the city?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, not only will I check those alleged facts but I can inform the Hon. Member that the 1983 budget has not been finalized.