

Oral Questions

time and time again. But that does not make them true. The answer is categorically "no": N-O.

* * *

CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION**METROPOLITAN TORONTO—CONSTRUCTION OF CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING UNITS**

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Would the Minister advise the House why, when there is a severe and growing affordable housing crisis in Metropolitan Toronto, CMHC would actually reduce the number of co-operative housing units allocated to Metropolitan Toronto, from a modest 458 in 1986, down to only 126 in 1987?

What is going on at CMHC? Will the Minister go back to his Department and read the Riot Act to his officials?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, when this Government took office it undertook the most massive consultation in the housing industry since CMHC began business, and the direction we unequivocally received, from all groups, including co-ops, social groups, bankers, and builders, was to direct our funds toward those most in need. At this time, 99 per cent of our budget goes to those most in need. Compare that to only 40 per cent under the previous Government. That resulted in 2,400 social housing units in Toronto last year, including co-op units.

* * *

● (1440)

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**BILL C-114—DELAY IN PASSAGE**

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Two months ago amidst much pomp and fanfare the Prime Minister introduced Bill C-114, the new conflict of interest Bill for cabinet Ministers, MPs, and Senators. Since then not one minute in this House has been spent on the Bill which the Prime Minister called landmark legislation.

Can the Prime Minister tell this House why the Government is stalling on this Bill? Is it because the PC Spouses' Association has been lobbying against it? Who is in charge over there, the Back Bench Committee, the PC Spouses' Association, or the Government?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, that is a very inviting question.

One of the reasons we have not been able to deal with the conflict of interest legislation and other pieces of legislation, such as the lobbying Bill, which I understand has been reported out of committee, is simply because the Opposition has been filibustering important Bills, for example, the Environmental Protection Act, the Western Diversification and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities legislation. These are the kinds of things that are holding the House up. They are very important pieces of legislation and should be dealt with.

The Deputy House Leader will be meeting later today, I believe, with representatives of the other two Parties to deal with the priority pieces of legislation that we must deal with before the summer. I can assure the Hon. Member that the legislation to which he has referred will be in that priority list.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister has just admitted that he does not control the agenda of the Government in the House. He can bring the Bill in this afternoon if he likes.

[*Translation*]

REQUEST THAT BILL BE ADOPTED QUICKLY

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister, since he has chosen to answer. In a letter sent to the Leader of the Opposition on February 24, the Prime Minister said, "I believe that it is in the public interest for Members of Parliament to act quickly so that the bill can be passed and enacted as soon as possible." What has become of this bill? Why have the Prime Minister and the Government changed their mind? Do we need to act quickly or don't we?

[*English*]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the Senate has been holding up very important legislation for over a year. I can assure the Hon. Member that if he has any influence with the House leadership of his Party, and if there is an agreement to put some limitation on the time that we can debate this issue in the House and get it on to committee for full study, we will be very happy.

Mr. Gauthier: Bring it in.

Mr. Mazankowski: The Deputy House Leader will be meeting this afternoon with the House Leaders to work out a program whereby all this important legislation can be dealt with before we break for the summer.