

**Mr. Danson:** First of all, Mr. Speaker, this government means business. There will be ample opportunity to discuss the area of the national capital before the committee. I do not think it necessary to make a statement on motions. This is an ongoing discussion with provincial and municipal officials as well as other people in Canada. Certainly, we have to treat this with great sensitivity, and I put as high a priority on parks and recreation as on any other element in the housing field.

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister who has just taken his seat. I am sure he is very anxious to get on with his job of providing more housing, and I will co-operate with him in that regard. I should like to ask him to please keep his hot little hands off any open spaces that exist in the city of Halifax.

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● (1440)

### HOUSING

#### SUGGESTED REDUCTION OF INTEREST RATES TO STIMULATE CONSTRUCTION

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, but first may I say that on Sunday a new television star was born.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Woolliams:** I should like to ask the minister what special program he has in mind to either lower or subsidize interest rates for builders on conventional mortgages—and I hope he heard the phrase “conventional mortgages”—in an effort to increase housing construction. On television he admitted there was a housing problem. When I posed this question on October 2 he mixed that up with the Assisted Home Ownership Program. I hope he will now answer my question directly regarding conventional mortgages to developers.

**Hon. Barnett J. Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** The interest rates are not a phenomenon created by this government or in existence only in this country. Governments do not set interest rates in a vacuum; they respond responsibly. We certainly have and intend to take care of those most in need to the best of our abilities. The AHOP Program has been extremely successful. We cannot manufacture artificial interest rates for special groups but we can when we recognize a subsidy as a subsidy, and we provide it where it is most needed to get the most value for the taxpayers' money.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### Oral Questions

### URBAN AFFAIRS

#### LAND DEVELOPMENT—CONTROL BY GENSTAR LIMITED, CALGARY—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** In the light of those facts, and in the light of the fact that we are trying to get the cost of housing down for the average Canadian, may I ask now whether the minister discussed with the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs the matter of Genstar Limited, a company which now controls more than 60 firms in Canada and is developing major centres, and particularly in reference to the city of Calgary regarding which there is now a confidential report showing that the firm controls the major development of that city and owns the land surrounding it. Has the minister discussed with the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs reporting the matter to the combines investigation branch?

**Hon. Barnett J. Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** I have not discussed it specifically with the minister. I have asked for a report from my own officials after I read the report in this morning's paper, but I am sure that if the hon. member will have his colleagues co-operate in the passage of the Combines Investigation Act, we will have more opportunity to deal with these situations.

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[Translation]

### AGRICULTURE

#### DAIRY POLICY—POSSIBILITY OF INCREASE IN SUBSIDY

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

In view of a considerable increase in production costs in the dairy industry, particularly in recent months, will the minister tell the House whether the government's dairy policy will be revised soon and whether subsidies will be raised to reflect higher production costs?

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the National Dairy Commission, the dairy industry and dairy producers are working on the development of a national dairy policy in this country. With regard to what the hon. member has stated about input costs, we are aware of the input costs to which dairy farmers are being subjected, but I am not prepared to state what, if any, extra subsidy to dairy farmers will be granted at this time.

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### FINANCE

#### MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE HOME OWNERSHIP—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome Missisquoi):** Mr. Speaker, while the Minister of Finance was in Washington attending a most important conferences last week, it was reported here in Canada that housing starts were down drastically, so I wish to put the following question to the