

MONTREAL—REPLY TO CITY'S HOME RENOVATION PROPOSALS

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister in charge of housing. Has the minister given any reply to the city of Montreal regarding the proposals that city made to him about two weeks ago regarding the renovation of 100,000 homes in the Montreal area?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, we had a very constructive meeting about two weeks ago with the Minister of Municipal Affairs from the province of Quebec and some of his officials and the mayor of Montreal and Mr. Niding and some of their officials from the city administration. We agreed to establish a co-ordinating and working committee between the federal government, the provincial government and the city of Montreal to address ourselves to all those problems. I heralded that meeting and the commitment to consult further as a major breakthrough in tri-level co-ordination and co-operation.

URBAN RENEWAL—USE OF TRI-LEVEL COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE CITY PROBLEMS—ESTABLISHMENT OF GUIDELINES

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary to the minister in charge of housing. Am I to take it from the minister's answer that this will be the policy of the government in order to alleviate the growing problems of the major cities throughout the country?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I think that one flew past my ear. I am not quite sure to what the hon. member is referring.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can explain it a little more clearly for the minister. In view of the fact he has just indicated he is setting up a committee representative of the city of Montreal, the province and the federal government to look into that city's several urban problems, will that be the policy of the government in respect of all other major cities throughout the country, including the city of Hamilton which has been continually pressing the minister for more funds for urban renewal?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, without going back to the more funds for urban renewal for Hamilton question, which battle we fought last year, the general principle of tri-level negotiation and co-operation, if the provinces are willing to join with us in that kind of endeavour, is very close indeed to my heart.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the mayors and reeves have indicated how important urban renewal problems are, or regeneration as the case may be, is it the intention of the minister to bring down guidelines now keeping in mind the several suggestions which have been made by the mayors in order that we can have some sort of policy from this government in terms of attempting to alleviate the several problems of urban renewal?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the minister might reply briefly. We have spent quite a bit of time on one question and three or four supplementaries.

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, urban renewal under section 23(b) of the National Housing Act is only one of many programs, and last year we spent \$1.1 billion and this year we will spend about \$1 billion directly through CMHC, to say nothing of the vast amounts of money being spent by many other departments of this government in help to the cities.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I am certainly accustomed to the answer the minister has continually given me for the past two years. All I asked was whether the government is thinking about indicating guidelines in respect of urban renewal, and the minister will not answer the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member may not be satisfied with the reply given by the minister but I suggest to him that is not a point of order.

PROPOSED REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary to the minister. Is he giving consideration to the proposals made yesterday that the federal government fund neighbourhood rehabilitation programs and fund social service programs to permit improvement of the environment in other forms except provision of shelter?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, this much more comprehensive approach is one we are examining with great sympathy and with a considerable bias toward ultimately arriving at this kind of policy approach.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT—PROJECTED REDUCTIONS FOR 1971

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. As the Prime Minister has rejected the requests of Metro Toronto and the city for additional programs to fight the problems of high unemployment on the ground that present government policies are more effective, is the Prime Minister able to give the House specific levels of reduced unemployment for 1971?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I cannot, of course, predict what will happen in the months to come, but for the month already expired the figures have been given to the House and they are known to the House.

Mr. Ryan: Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister undertake to work out some projections of reduced unemployment levels for the country for the year ahead?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, at the time of the budget we do attempt to indicate to the House of Commons and to the people the shape of economic things to come.