

S.O. 43

URBAN AFFAIRS

CMHC DATA ON MORTGAGE DEFAULTS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Dean Whiteway (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) has not allowed CMHC to release information relating to mortgage defaults, including AHOP defaults which will quadruple those of last year, and knowing that this information is critically important and necessary, first, for the evaluation of existing government housing programs and, second, for the analysis, projection and prospects for success of the government proposed graduated payment mortgage program, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton (Mrs. Pigott):

That this House direct the Minister of State for Urban Affairs immediately to authorize CMHC to release all data relative to mortgage defaults in the past five years.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be presented only with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

FUNDS FOR SYDNEY, N.S., STEEL MILL—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that Mr. Tom Kent, president of the Sydney Steel Corporation, has announced an agreement with the Three Island Steel Company Limited of Richmond, B.C., to sell 1.8 million to 2.4 million tons of steel billets between July, 1980, and December, 1990, and in view of the fact that this will amount to sales for the Sydney plant of about \$30 million a year by 1980, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent):

That the Department of Regional Economic Expansion make funds available immediately for the repair of the billet mill in Sydney and for renovating the plant so that by 1980 a Q-BOP furnace capacity will replace the outmoded open-hearth steelmaking facilities in order to guarantee that this order will be profitable to SYSCO and increase employment at that mill by over 500 by 1980.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be presented for discussion only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

[Mr. Speaker.]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

HOUSING

DIRECT FUNDING TO MUNICIPALITIES

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs who I saw outside the chamber but who is not in his place. In his absence, perhaps I could direct it to the Prime Minister.

As the Prime Minister will know, the minister's proposed new directions in housing in one part propose the extension of direct funding to municipalities by the federal government well beyond the present limited state of that direct funding, in a manner which at least four provinces oppose and which is against the law of at least one province. Can the Prime Minister give us a categorical assurance here in this House that the government will not implement this aspect of that policy without the agreement of the provinces?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is asking a question which can be answered only by someone with intimate knowledge of the negotiations with the provinces, which the minister has. He will be in attendance in the House in a moment. Of course, the plan of the minister, in general terms, is to fund the municipalities, after consultation with the provinces, to choose precisely the kinds of areas which have been agreed to with the provinces. I cannot speak in any detail about the results of those negotiations, but I repeat that the minister will be here in a few moments.

● (1417)

Mr. Clark: The Prime Minister certainly knows that the most serious possible exception has been taken by at least four provinces to this proposal. I wonder if, as a matter of ensuring that the conduct of federal-provincial relations in this country continues, or begins to proceed, in a civilized way, he would raise with his minister the necessity of giving the House a categorical assurance that the government will not proceed with an invasion of provincial jurisdiction without the agreement of the provinces. We can wait for that answer.

Let me ask the Prime Minister a question in relation to a statement made by the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Was the minister stating the position of the Government of Canada when he said yesterday:

The role of municipalities must be legally enshrined in the constitution as a full-fledged level of government with powers of their own.

Is that the position of the Government of Canada?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada has not taken that position. If the minister said those words, he was expressing his own views.

Mr. Paproski: Goodbye, Ouellet!