

Minister of Labour in his capacity in charge of the administration of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. I realize it also concerns the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources and the Minister of Finance. In view of the announcement that the interest rate on Central Mortgage and Housing loans in the Northwest Territories is now to be 7½ per cent, 1 per cent over the new rate recently announced for mortgages elsewhere in Canada, does the minister think the government is encouraging the development of the north by penalizing investors for investing in the Northwest Territories; and is it an equitable policy to raise the interest cost above the 60th parallel as compared with below that parallel?

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me that at this time the hon. member is asking for an expression of opinion.

[Later:]

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, with respect to your ruling with regard to my question, I should like to re-ask the Minister of Labour whether it is government policy to insist on a higher rate of interest for central housing and mortgage loans in the Northwest Territories.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): I am very glad that the hon. member has put his question a second time, because this enables me to assure the house that the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation does not have two rates.

There are in fact three types of loans in the Yukon. The first is the normal N.H.A. loan made by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In that case, the interest rate is 6¾ per cent, the same as it is in all parts of Canada. I understand, however, that there are second mortgage loans made by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, on which the maximum is \$2,000. The rate in such cases has usually been 1 per cent higher than the rate on central mortgage loans.

There is a third type of first mortgage loan, Mr. Speaker, a loan up to \$6,000, together with special grants if the occupant lives in the house for a period of ten years, I believe it is. He then benefits from a forgiveness provision. In that case I believe the rate is also 7¾ per cent. The N.H.A. rate for all homes in Canada is uniform, both in the territories as well as the provinces.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the information the minister has given us, but it is not in accordance with a statement made

Inquiries of the Ministry

by Commissioner Sivertz of the Northwest Territories, who is reported to have stated that the N.H.A. rate on loans for buildings in the Northwest Territories is 1 per cent higher than anywhere else in Canada.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. May I ask the minister whether he could induce the government to make second mortgage loans at 7¾ per cent available everywhere in Canada?

Mr. Nicholson: I will consider the hon. gentleman's suggestion, Mr. Speaker.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

CONSIDERATION OF CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATED AREAS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Industry. Does he intend to bring forward early in the session the amendments to the Area Development Incentives Act and, if so, can he indicate in any general way the nature of these amendments?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, the amendments will be brought forward in due course. They are currently under consideration.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): As a supplementary question, just before the end of the last session, as I recall it, the minister stated that the criteria used to establish these areas would be tabled in the house when it met again in September. Have those criteria been tabled as yet so that urban areas and all parts of the country will know the basis on which a determination is made?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I think the criteria are outlined in an order in council which was tabled during the last session. If the right hon. gentleman wishes, I can provide him with a further copy.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I would simply point out that I think on the last day of last session two of the members of the government undertook that the criteria would be tabled, and that they would be referred to the standing committee on industry, research and energy development for discussion. Does the minister intend to have these criteria brought before that committee for discussion and for consideration by parliament at this session?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, if it is the desire of the committee to examine and discuss