

*Oral Questions*

July 1 or indeed on any specific date. We are seeking to achieve the support, not only of the producing provinces but if possible also of the consuming provinces, for an increase at this time and I hope we can achieve that without further delay but I cannot be specific as to when.

OIL—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE NO PRICE INCREASE  
GREATER THAN INCREASE IN COSTS

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the Minister of Finance is seeking to combat inflation by suggesting that prices should not be allowed to rise unless increased costs warrant an increase and in view of the fact that production costs have not risen materially with respect to oil, can the minister give the House an assurance that following expiry of the present voluntary agreement there will be no increase in the price of oil beyond the present \$6.50 per barrel?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot give that assurance. The position taken in the producing areas is that there has been an increase in costs of production and exploration as a result of the general increases in price levels in Canada. We will be seeking to arrive at an agreement on price which we feel is fair both to producing provinces like Saskatchewan and to consuming provinces like Manitoba.

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[Translation]

HOUSING

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR CENTRAL MORTGAGE  
AND HOUSING CORPORATION

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the hon. Minister of State for Urban Affairs.

In view of the fact that a number of borrowers have been unable to secure CMHC loans for the apparent reason that the Corporation has spent all its funds for the current year, could the Minister advise the House whether all the funds made available to CMHC for the current year have indeed been spent and, in the affirmative, whether he hopes he will be able to obtain additional funds from Treasury Board, so that this corporation may grant a greater number of loans and help start the building industry rolling again?

[English]

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, some offices have used up allocations of CMHC, but I encourage the public to continue to pursue applications, as we are working with private lenders to bring in private money which is subsidized by the government. I am encouraging officers of CMHC to continue to accept applications, and we will work with private lenders to make sure that as many people are accommodated as possible.

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

[Translation]

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I regret very much that the minister did not answer my question at all. It is all right to say that people may go on submitting applications, it is the easiest thing to do in the world. What is more difficult is to have one's application granted. That is what I want to know. Does the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation still have funds to answer borrowers' applications in the affirmative?

[English]

**Mr. Danson:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer specifically. I can only say that no offices are out of money, and they can continue to receive applications. I cannot anticipate responses in other areas. Naturally, we are pursuing the situation and seeing that as many Canadians are looked after as possible.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the utmost importance of the question, I would like to know whether Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is limited regarding the acceptance of secured loans, that is loans contracted with registered lending institutions, and whether the Corporation is subjected to a limit as regards the acceptance of those secured loans.

[English]

**Mr. Danson:** Mr. Speaker, there is both direct lending and lending from private sources which we subsidize, so that both continue to be available.

[Translation]

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour, if he is in the House.

[English]

**Mr. Stanfield:** He has gone out inspecting the meat.

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POST OFFICE

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNION OF  
POSTAL WORKERS

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Postmaster General. In view of the growing desire being expressed by the majority of postal workers across the country for a fair and equitable contract similar to the one concluded recently with the Letter Carriers Union of Canada, could the Postmaster General inform the House if the collective bargaining process with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers is proceeding on course?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, regretfully, no. I should like to be more optimistic but must be honest with the House. I intend to make a statement either in the House or outside tomorrow. There is no reason in the world why the members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers should not obtain as good a