

Oral Questions

● (1410)

HOUSING

REQUEST FOR NEW MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE CRISIS—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43 I request the unanimous consent of the House to present a motion concerning a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. Given the current drastic shortage of mortgage moneys with the resulting upward pressure on interest rates and given the prediction by the Assistant General Manager of the Royal Bank that prices of Canadian houses will rise by 15 per cent by the end of the current year, I move, seconded by the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens):

That the government immediately introduce new measures to alleviate the housing crisis.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The motion proposed pursuant to Standing Order 43 cannot be accepted without unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; there is not unanimous consent.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

STRIKE OF LONGSHOREMEN IN QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT
ACTION TO ENFORCE COMPLIANCE WITH BACK-TO-WORK
LEGISLATION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Justice, or to the Acting Prime Minister, in the absence of the Minister of Labour? Could we be given further information about the situation concerning the longshoremen in the St. Lawrence ports following the meeting yesterday between representatives of the unions and the Minister of Labour?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour is continuing a series of meetings in connection with the longshoring operations of the ports. At the same time we are taking steps to proceed with applications under the special Act of parliament adopted last week, to obtain an order to ensure compliance with that Act.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister be more specific as to what measures he and his associates are proceeding with to ensure compliance with the Act?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, the application to which I referred is an application for an order under the Act to

[Mr. Speaker.]

secure compliance on the part of the employees' associations. In our view the facts supporting the order had to be established and, thereafter, appropriate notice has to be given to the parties involved. That is now in process.

Mr. Stanfield: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Who are the parties involved? I do not mean, by name, but by description.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I was speaking particularly about the five unions involved.

STRIKE OF LONGSHOREMEN IN QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT VIEW
OF FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH BACK-TO-WORK LEGISLATION

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister? As parliament last week passed legislation ordering the members of these unions back to work immediately, is it the opinion of the government that when parliament passes such legislation and union members are ordered to return to work, that it is satisfactory if they do not return to work?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Justice has outlined the steps the government has taken to see that the Act is complied with.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST NATIVES AT BANQUET
FOR PRINCE OF WALES—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION AND
RESIGNATION OF COMMISSIONER OF NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the report that appeared originally on television last night, and was repeated in the newspapers this morning, to the effect that among the 350 guests invited for a banquet organized for the Prince of Wales by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories there were only 22 native people, and as native peoples constitute some two-thirds of the total population of the Northwest Territories, can the Acting Prime Minister tell the House whether the government has conducted an investigation into the accuracy of this report?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we have not conducted any particular investigation. I expect that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will be back in Ottawa shortly. He has been meeting with native peoples in the north. All I saw, of course, was what was on television. Everyone, including the native peoples, seemed to be having a good time celebrating the visit of the Prince of Wales.

Mr. Broadbent: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As usual, the Acting Prime Minister seems to have missed the point. Is it the government's view that such a representation of native peoples of the Northwest Territories was adequate? Does the minister think that 22 members of the native community can be considered as a fair