

*Oral Questions*

and that the province of Alberta should turn the land over without going through the courts, would the minister say whether he has offered similar advice to the premier of Quebec regarding the land claims of the James Bay Indians.

**Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, there are two different acts involved here, one for Alberta and one for Quebec, and the situation is different in each case. I am optimistic that the situation in Quebec will be resolved very soon in a satisfactory fashion. As far as the situation in Alberta is concerned, it is our understanding that it is the responsibility of the provincial government to turn back to us, the federal Crown land needed so that we can extinguish the acknowledged claim of the Indian people.

SUGGESTION MINISTER CONVEY HIS VIEWS ON INDIAN LAND CLAIMS TO PREMIER OF QUEBEC

**Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the minister for his explanation with regard to the situation in Alberta, but given the fact that Mr. Justice Malouf in his ruling stated that the evidence shows that the rights of the Cree Indians and Innu population of the James Bay area have never been extinguished, would the minister undertake to convey to the premier of Quebec immediately his stand on Indian rights vis-à-vis the provincial jurisdiction so that we can have a uniform approach to this question in all parts of the country?

**Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I think the premier of Quebec is well aware of the stance of this government on that matter, and that is the reason for which we have been supporting the Indian and Innu groups in Quebec. As I said earlier, I am optimistic that the matter will soon be resolved in a satisfactory fashion.

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AGRICULTURE

REQUEST FOR FEDERAL AID TO WESTERN BEEF PRODUCERS

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** My question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that the three prairie governments have been forced to announce cash assistance programs for the cow-calf operators and in view of the call by the western premiers for federal assistance, I should like to ask the minister now whether or not he will match the provincial programs or whether or not he will be announcing immediately some forms of assistance to the western beef producers.

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, with regard to what the hon. member has said about the western provinces, I understand that two of them have taken action to assist the beef producers.

**An hon. Member:** No, three.

**Mr. Whelan:** According to the information I have, it is two. I must remind hon. members that I must act for all

[Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands).]

these beef producers in Canada. They made a decision on their own; it is up to them, and I know that they are taking that decision on account of the feed stabilization program which we have initiated several weeks ago on our own.

**Mr. Nystrom:** In view of the fact that they took the action because of the lack of any federal action, I should like to ask the minister the following question. In view of the many statements he made about stabilizing farm income, can he give us a commitment in the House that in the next week or two he will be doing something, or is it all just rhetoric?

**Mr. Whelan:** If and when any action is taken it will be on behalf of all beef producers of Canada. I cannot make an exception for one, two or three provinces. There are ten provinces and they all produce beef. Ontario is the largest beef producer in the nation, but they have not asked for that kind of action.

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[Translation]

HOUSING

NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of State responsible for Urban Affairs.

The minister is well aware that the lack of appropriate housing for our fellow citizens remains a major problem.

Since the budget of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is now exhausted as concerns the financing of existing houses, and has been for some time, can the minister tell us if he was aware of this, and if so, what does he intend to do to obtain more funds to solve this problem?

[English]

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the program has been tremendously successful, the most successful in the field of housing ever engaged upon by any government. Fortunately, the resources virtually lasted until the end of this building season so we should be able to continue with the maximum number of building starts. I expect to develop new programs or modifications of the existing program that will improve it still further and provide more starts next year when they will be needed at the beginning of the building season.

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. With regard especially to the financing of existing houses for low-income people, has the minister any specific plans to carry out this program?

[English]

**Mr. Danson:** I am afraid I cannot announce anything specific for existing housing at this time. As the hon. member knows, AHOP did cover existing housing, but it has proved so popular and funds were being used up