

Inquiries of the Ministry

is now being purchased by the Aquitaine Company of Canada which is owned by French interests?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I did make a quick check, Mr. Speaker. I have no knowledge of such representations having been made to my office as yet. If they do come, I will consider them.

Mr. Woolliams: Will the Prime Minister consider this in the same way that the American purchase of Home Oil is being considered? This is a purchase by another foreign company. Will the cabinet consider this in the same way that they considered the other matter this morning?

Mr. Trudeau: As the minister indicated, Mr. Speaker, we have been considering the matter of Home Oil. No doubt we will want to include this in our consideration. It would be helpful if we had a clear statement of what the opposition suggests should be done in these cases.

Mr. Woolliams: I rise on a question of privilege. If the Prime Minister will grace this institution with his presence this evening, he will hear our position in that regard.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF PROVINCIAL RECRUITMENT QUOTAS

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): My question is for the Minister of National Defence. Earlier this week I asked the minister whether his department is giving consideration to implementing quotas, notwithstanding trade quotas or particular skill quotas that may be required, in terms of absolute numbers with regard to those taken into the armed forces from province to province.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): I expect to have an answer to this tomorrow.

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HOUSING

RECONCILIATION OF DECREASE IN CMHC BUDGET AND EXPECTED INCREASE IN STARTS

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): My question is for the Minister without Portfolio in charge of housing. In view of the fact that the capital budget of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, tabled by the minister last week, indicates 16.1 per cent less federal spending on housing compared with the CMHC budget of last year, which took into account the innovative fund, and the minister expects a 15.8 per cent increase in housing starts, will he make a statement on motions indicating how he expects to increase housing starts by decreasing the capital budget for 1971?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's question is asked in the form of an argument. I doubt whether it is accept-

[Mr. Woolliams.]

able. At the same time he asked the minister whether he would make a statement on motions. If the minister can reply to this quickly, the question might be accepted in those terms.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): I do not intend to make a statement on motions because I made a statement the other day when I tabled the capital budget in the House.

[Later:]

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): I have a supplementary question for the minister in charge of housing. Does his reply to the question of the hon. member for Broadview indicate that in the low income levels the government is prepared to grant subsidies either by way of principal or interest to help these objectives to be realized?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to make such a commitment at this stage.

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URBAN AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO CONVENING OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio in charge of housing with regard to urban problems. In view of the fact the Prime Minister has indicated his reluctance, because of the constitution, to meet the mayors of this country, whose problems still continue and are becoming more aggravated, has the minister abandoned any interest in a tri-level conference or setting up an urban council?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): No, Mr. Speaker. I believe the Prime Minister's statement indicated a confirmation of what he has said in the House on two or three occasions. If the provinces are willing to have us meet with the mayors to consult on urban problems, we will be delighted to join in such a conference. That is the thrust of our position.

Mr. Alexander: That is the answer the minister responsible for housing gave the other day when I posed the same question on this problem. Is the minister now in a position to advise the House whether he has discussed this situation with his provincial counterparts? If so, what have their answers been?

Mr. Andras: I think I made that clear in the answer I gave the hon. member a few days ago. To repeat, I have been in communication with the Ministers of Municipal Affairs about tri-level consultation. I have not received formal replies from all of them. The replies I have received so far indicate that this is a good possibility.