

*Oral Questions*

indeed has touched on the main elements of the plan. The top limit is \$3,000, available to each successful applicant.

The program will be available through the CMHC office in those areas where unemployment in the trade is most severe. I would invite hon. members to check with their own offices to see whether an allocation has been made in those areas. That will assist them in responding to people who probably will contact their offices, as some indeed have contacted my local constituency office this morning. It is a program involving \$30 million, distributed across the country, to generate employment in the construction trades. It requires an individual participating to spend \$2 for \$1 of the grant, which is forgivable and non-taxable.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Madam Speaker, is the minister telling us that this is available only to selected Canadians in selected areas, and that the brochure produced by the minister—which says nothing about designated areas and represents that the plan is generally available to all Canadians—is in fact a plan available only to those Canadians who happen to live in those areas of Canada that the minister wants to favour?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, when the plan was announced approximately a month ago, it was done in conjunction with the announcement of two other initiatives of the government directed especially to those areas in which there was high unemployment in the construction trades. There is no question about it, the plan is designed to assist employment in the trades in the construction industry in those areas in Canada where there is the highest surplus of people unemployed. I do not dispute the position of my hon. friend. This program is an additional \$30 million directed to generate employment. It is directed specifically to those areas where that type of employment is in most serious difficulty.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## QUERY RESPECTING APPLICATION TO DESIGNATED AREAS

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Madam Speaker, in view of the fact that there is tremendous unemployment in the building industry generally across the country, and in view of the fact that the materials for the building industry are almost all Canadian, why is the minister penalizing certain people, giving advantage to other people? Will the minister tell us if his riding of Scarborough is a designated area, and if Mississauga is a designated area?

**Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, the program for this additional \$30 million was announced in conjunction with two other announcements at the same time. The first was an increase of 30,000 units

available this year under the Canada Rental Supply Plan. That plan is available across the country and is directed to those areas where there are low vacancy rates. We believe that that plan will generate at least an additional 60,000 man-years of employment in the construction trades.

Secondly, it was announced in conjunction with a change in the CHIP program, the home insulation program, where eligible home dwellings date from 1961 to 1971.

The combination of the three programs, Madam Speaker, was designed to assist those trades in the construction industry. We think that the combination of these plans across the country generally will have the beneficial effect of providing an incentive of jobs, at least an additional 100,000 jobs across the country. I cannot answer the specifics of the last part of the question.

## REQUEST THAT PLAN COVER HOMES INSULATED WITH UREA FORMALDEHYDE FOAM

**Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown):** Madam Speaker, with your permission I would direct a question to the same minister. The new Canada Home Renovation Plan, CHRP, does not apply to those thousands of Canadian homes which contain urea formaldehyde foam insulation. The government's so-called generous UFFI plan, which the minister announced not too long ago, covers only about 5 per cent of homes with UFFI, leaving thousands of other houses with this insulation absolutely valueless because nobody wants to buy them. Why does the minister not apply the Canada Home Renovation Plan to those wishing to remove the foam, thereby creating jobs—that is the sole motivating drive for this aid plan—and help solve a major Canadian problem at the same time?

• (1120)

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I think the hon. member should realize that the program we are offering home owners who insulated their homes with UFFI is actually far more generous than the other program to which he is referring here in the House.

The program for owners of homes insulated with UFFI provides for grants of up to \$5,000, which are tax-free. The other program offers to pay up to 30 per cent of the cost of repairs, up to a maximum amount of \$3,000. Therefore, it should be obvious to the hon. member that our program is the more generous of the two, because the amount offered may be as much as \$5,000 and does not pay just a portion, but all of the repair costs involved.

[English]

**Mr. McDermid:** Madam Speaker, the interesting thing about that plan is that it applies to only 5 per cent of the