

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

HOUSING

\$3,000 GRANT PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Marcel Roy (Laval): Madam Speaker, under the Canadian Home Ownership Stimulation Plan, a grant of \$3,000 was paid by the Federal Government to all Canadians wishing to buy a home. This program was very popular and has helped to stimulate construction in Canada. Unfortunately, the program had to be discontinued on May 4 of this year for various reasons, including a moderating trend in interest rates, which have dropped considerably. Since this announcement, the caucus of Liberal Members from the Laval-Larentians area, which is honoured to have you, Madam Speaker, among its members, had a meeting on May 12 with the Quebec Provincial Home Builders Association. At this meeting, the Association submitted an official resolution that was transmitted to the national Liberal caucus and received the unanimous support of caucus members, who urged the Government to acknowledge the commitments of home buyers who had signed their purchase offers. We are now anxiously waiting for a decision by the Minister responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation with respect to this vital sector of our economy.

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[English]

NATIONAL FILM BOARD

CLOSING OF REGIONAL OFFICES

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, I wish to protest, in the strongest terms, the recent decision by the National Film Board of Canada to close down eight of its regional offices across the country, including one in my constituency of Kingston and the Islands.

The savings projected by this move are minimal compared with the contribution of these outlets to the concerned communities. For instance, the resources of the National Film Board library in Kingston are in constant demand by local school boards as a valuable supplement to Canadian studies. Ethnic communities make great use of films which show Canadian life and history, particularly that of their own forebears in Canada. Senior citizen groups in the area regularly schedule film screenings for the enjoyment and entertainment of their members. All of these usages will be drastically curtailed should the local office be closed.

The National Film Board office in Kingston ranks fifth in terms of efficiency out of 30 NFB offices in Canada, so its closing is particularly difficult to comprehend.

I therefore urge the Minister of Communications (Mr. Fox) to take early action with a view to reversing the short-sighted

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decision of the National Film Board with regard to the closure of so many of its local film libraries.

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HOUSING

ASSISTED HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM—PLIGHT OF FAMILIES IN HOMES

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Madam Speaker, my purpose today is to call to the attention of the House and, I hope, to the Government, the plight of those families who entered into the AHOP Program several years back, who have really tried to make a go of things and have done everything to live up to their responsibilities under their agreements. These families now find themselves in the aggravating position of, in effect, being punished by the Government for being responsible people. The people who did not or could not repay their loans, and/or who simply walked away from their AHOP homes after not making payments for a while, are in some cases actually better off than those who stayed and now see the value of their investments being eroded by subsequent CMHC handling of vacated AHOP homes in their neighbourhood.

If the Government could see its way to providing \$3,000 to those who wish to buy a new home, I do not see any reason why it could not, at this time, reward the perseverance and responsibility of those AHOP home owners who have persisted, by forgiving outstanding loans or paying back the loans which have already been paid up. This is the least that could be done for these people in a very difficult situation.

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[Translation]

TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

IMPORTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Lotbinière): Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 13, I made a statement under the provisions of Standing Order 21 about the clothing import situation, and at the time, I urged Cabinet to look into the matter and decide accordingly.

Yesterday, I read in the papers, after a press conference held by the Canadian Institute of Clothing Manufacturers and the unions to discuss the situation in the clothing and textiles industry, that these two groups have asked the Canadian Government to make a decision with respect to imports.

Madam Speaker, after listening to news reports and reading newspaper articles on the subject, I must say that I do not entirely agree with all the statements made by labour and management, although I do share some of their views on the import situation, and I would like to make it clear to both labour and management that Federal Members with a special concern for the textile and clothing industry are discussing the issue with the Ministers concerned and have asked Cabinet to