

*Oral Questions*RURAL NATIVE HOUSING PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR
PROGRESS REPORT ON ABILITY OF RURAL RESIDENTS TO
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PROGRAM

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister a supplementary question. Turning to the rural native housing program, would the minister indicate the progress being made to enable people in rural Canada, and particularly in the poorer parts of Canada, to take advantage of the residential rehabilitation portion of the program?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Progress is being made, Mr. Speaker. This is a question that is attracting increasing attention. Again this is a matter I will be discussing with the provincial housing ministers. We want to see more done in this area, subject to budgetary limitations.

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● (1140)

FINANCE

OFFER OF MORTGAGE LOANS BY ARAB COUNTRIES AND CIDA
LOAN TO CUBA—POSITION OF MINISTER

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. On Wednesday, the Minister indicated that he saw no problem with the proposal to bring petrodollars to Canada as mortgage money and that he saw no problem with the terms of the CIDA loan to Cuba. Has the minister's department studied both the Arab mortgage money proposal and the CIDA loan to Cuba and is the minister satisfied, on the basis of the department's advice, that these actions are beneficial to the people of Canada, and would the minister explain to the House what he meant by "no problem"?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, what I meant when I said I saw no problem in recognizing the positions of the Minister of State for Urban Affairs and mine was that they have been reconciled. As to the other situation, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and I are still discussing the matter.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

ENGINEERS' STRIKE—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO HAVE
RAILWAY OPERATIONS RESUMED

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I could not help but notice, before the session started, the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Labour with their heads together. I presume that between the two of them they have some answer for the premature strike by the railway engineers which is shutting down railway traffic across Canada. I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Labour and ask him what he will do to ensure that the trains run again.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I would advise the hon. member that if there have been

[Mr. Danson.]

breaches here, there are remedies. The railway concerned seems to be the CNR. They are aware of the situation—

An hon. Member: That is very good.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):—and they are looking into what remedies are available to them at the moment.

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, I have a brief supplementary question. I am aware of all that the minister has said, as I think are most hon. members, but could we have some timing as to when these trains might be running again?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Do you have it?

An hon. Member: You are the Minister of Transport. You should have the answer.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): I do not have any futuristic view as to what will occur as the result of action now being contemplated by the employer, the CNR.

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FINANCE

CAPITAL WINTER WORKS PROGRAM—SUGGESTED
EXTENSION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the funding for the winter job expansion program and, more particularly, the winter capital projects fund, ended with the expiry date for applications on September 30, 1974, can the minister tell the House what plans he has to either renew this very worthwhile program or to initiate a new program carrying the same provisions?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): The program, of course, runs until May 31, 1975. At the moment, there are no plans to renew it.

Mr. Patterson: In view of the great need experienced by municipalities and other agencies for programs of this nature, would the minister give active consideration to the renewal of the program and advise the municipalities so that they can proceed with their plans for the future?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I will certainly take that suggestion into consideration.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

POSSIBILITY OF SERIES OF STRIKES IN 1975—GOVERNMENT
ACTION TO AVOID

Mr. Frank Maine (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour, who is aware of my motion which appears on today's order paper. Would the minister agree that the prospect in 1975 of a continuing series of strikes is an extremely serious problem, as was reiterated this morning in the editorial column in the *Globe and Mail*—