

ing of the kilt. Can she advise if the department contemplates any such research in this country with a consultative role for the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the hon. member for Hillsborough or do they view the whole project as an exercise in supererogation?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. parliamentary secretary.

Miss Coline Campbell (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could bring this matter to the minister's attention and perhaps he could assign me to investigate this matter.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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HOUSING

DATE OF APPLICABILITY OF \$500 GRANT TO FIRST TIME PURCHASERS

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the statement made by the minister on Friday last, could he clarify whether people who constructed homes during last summer and occupied them prior to November 1, will be eligible for the \$500 bonus as indicated?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it will only apply on those homes on which the deals were closed and the occupants moved in on last Friday or subsequent to that for the next 12 months.

NATIVE AND RURAL HOUSING POLICY—NUMBER OF UNITS CONSTRUCTED—SUGGESTION GREATER PUBLICITY BE GIVEN PROGRAM

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs and refers to the secret housing policy called the native and rural housing policy. It became secret when a senior official from Central Mortgage and Housing was dismissed because of revelations of the policy late last year. Today the information service of Central Mortgage and Housing indicates to anyone who wants to inquire that there really is not such a policy and that the minister's statement is the only material available explaining such a policy. Can the minister tell the House today how this policy that was announced by his predecessor on March 7 is being implemented and how many of the 50,000 homes promised to Canada's native people and deprived people, have been constructed to date?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, first of all I should like to say that it never moves as quickly as we would wish. There are three provinces that have entered into the agreement with the federal government, British Columbia, Manitoba and Alberta and three projects are under way in British

Oral Questions

Columbia for a total of 24 units to start. I have had meetings with some of the native people themselves and will have meetings with officials—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Twenty-four!

Mr. Danson: —in Vancouver early next month. We hope to see this program get off the ground a great deal faster. It is a matter of some priority to me that there are 24 units in one province. Some of the other provinces have not yet signed at all, unfortunately. We would like to see this program moving more quickly. I give it a high priority and I will be meeting in British Columbia with officials to try to speed up the program.

Mr. Oberle: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the minister is obviously experiencing some difficulty in getting this program known to the people who could benefit from it, is he prepared to instruct his department and Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to bring out information material that could be circulated among those people so that they could take advantage of it or is he hiding the program forever because he is embarrassed about the impact it could have in the housing field?

Mr. Danson: Not at all, Mr. Speaker. I am optimistic about the impact it could have. Certainly, the groups to whom I have already spoken have been well informed on it but I will check the procedure to make sure that more people are informed and that all hon. members are informed as well. Then, they may promote the program in their areas and, perhaps where the provinces have not signed agreements with us, they may encourage them to do so.

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● (1210)

PENITENTIARIES

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL—VISIT TO CELL BLOCK ONE WITH OPPOSITION MEMBERS

Mr. A. C. Abbott (Mississauga): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Solicitor General. Would the minister, when he visits cell block one, take certain opposition members as well, and leave them there for a period of intensive study.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to do so.

Mr. Stanfield: Specify. Be more specific.

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CANADIAN ARSENALS LIMITED

POSSIBLE CLOSING OF CORPORATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Supply and Services. It concerns a Crown corporation known as