

Oral Questions

[English]

Mr. Oberle: Since it has been the objective of the federal government for the last three years to enter into such a program, has the minister now proposed to the provincial ministers a program which would be less rigid and more conducive to the real need within the provinces so that the provinces could make use of it?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: That is what we are doing now, Mr. Speaker, but, of course, we remain within the provisions of legislation adopted by Parliament in that field in the last years.

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● (1150)

[English]

HOUSING

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR LIMITED DIVIDEND PROJECTS—SUGGESTED EXTENSION OF PROGRAM

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs? Will the minister inform the House how many applications were received for limited dividend housing, a program which I understand closed on April 30, and if he is satisfied with the number?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have some preliminary figures. There have been 246 proposals for projects from across the country, for a total of 22,623 units involving \$540 million. The call was for \$200 million. The over-all cost of the units is between \$20,000 and \$25,000. These will have to be assessed as to value. From all indications, it looks as if we received proposals for more than double the number of units we called for. This is encouraging and it can be done, hopefully, under the new legislation, with private lenders. I am delighted with the size of this response. I am interested in seeing the breakdown by region and by city, to make certain that all parts of Canada participate.

Mr. Darling: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder, because of the great need for housing, if the minister would not consider re-opening the program and allowing additional proposals, which will provide much needed housing for the country.

Mr. Danson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will certainly do that and use the recent legislation which allows private lenders to put up the money, which we will subsidize, so that more low-cost rental units can be built.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

METROPOLITAN AREA GROWTH INVESTMENTS, NOVA SCOTIA—INQUIRY WHETHER CORPORATION ACTIVE AND EXECUTIVE POSITIONS FILLED

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Eco-

[Mr. Lalonde.]

omic Expansion. I should like to ask the hon. gentleman if there has been any recent development in the long saga of Metropolitan Area Growth Investments Limited in Nova Scotia, whether this \$20 million experimental corporation has become active after a three-year gestation period, and whether all executive positions are now filled and the company is ready to report progress?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, considerable progress has been made. I believe I advised the hon. member that the nominees of both the provincial and federal governments have actually been appointed. The present situation is that a federal and a provincial nominee are active as interim co-chairmen until such time as a recommendation goes forward with regard to a permanent chief executive officer. In the meantime, there is quite a bit of work being done. I was talking to the Minister of Finance of Nova Scotia recently and he is satisfied that the plan is moving ahead at a reasonable pace after, regrettably, a number of unfortunate delays.

Mr. MacKay: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. For the record, is the minister saying that the company is actually in operation now and that projects are under way?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I would not want to be that specific without obtaining further information. My impression is that it is not, in terms of projects, other than looking at them in a general way. The primary aim at the moment is to get a chief executive officer. As I said, this is proving somewhat difficult.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

POSSIBILITY OF LEGISLATION RESULTING FROM AGREEMENT WITH PROVINCES—POSITION OF MINISTER OF FINANCE ON GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a couple of questions to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, with further reference to the conference of the last couple of days? The minister having indicated that there was agreement on one matter, the extension of certain services, will there be early legislation on that matter? While I am on my feet may I ask the minister if, with respect to the continued consideration of the guaranteed annual income, he is in a position to report to his provincial counterparts that he has the backing of the federal Minister of Finance?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the legislative program of the House is extremely heavy, and I cannot anticipate the possibility of introducing a new bill in this area before the next session. We have discussed this matter with my provincial colleagues and they agree on this.

Moreover, I can assure my hon. colleague that the whole Cabinet is at one about the major priority to give social security and I think the government action during the last