

Oral Questions

unequal in fact, with some provinces in and some out. I should like to ask the minister whether he is now able to give us any firm statement about the plans of the one province which intends to administer the program itself in its own area of jurisdiction. Has the Government of Canada received any commitment from that province that it will follow the federal guidelines rather than its own guidelines?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): In general terms, the hope and the expectation is that the federal guidelines will be followed. As yet there has not been a final commitment that that province would make any necessary changes in its own guidelines so as to provide a mirror image of the federal guidelines. This question is still being discussed.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF
MODEL AGREEMENTS WITH PROVINCES

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is also to the Minister of Finance. On Friday, November 28 the minister said that he would table or otherwise make available copies of the model agreements he submitted to the provinces in connection with Bill C-73. Would the minister now make that material available to the House?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have seen the report of the question on Friday by the Leader of the Opposition. There was some discussion of those agreements the day before, and it was because discussion was anticipated that the form of the agreement had not been completed. I have asked my officials to prepare translations and to prepare the documents for tabling at the appropriate time tomorrow.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF
DRAFT REGULATIONS—AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT
REGULATIONS TO PROVINCES

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Last Thursday the minister said, and I quote:

... regulations are not yet complete in a number of respects and depend on the outcome of discussions occurring today with the provinces.

Arising out of current meetings of officials does the government now have a full package of draft regulations, and if so, is the minister able to make them public in draft form in order that this House and others can review them and make comments?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): We are proposing that they would be promulgated just as soon as we receive Royal Assent. I anticipate they will be available some time next week.

Mr. Stevens: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Do the provinces now have in their possession a package of draft regulations in order that they can begin to reach a decision on how they will participate, and at least whether they will accept a national set of guidelines, particularly on incomes that fall under provincial jurisdiction?

[Mr. Stanfield.]

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, in general terms I would have to say no.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—POSSIBILITY OF PROVINCIAL
AGREEMENT ON CONTROL OF PROFESSIONAL INCOMES

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Finance. Considering that a survey of lawyers in the Toronto area which was made public today indicated that they have not the slightest bit of concern about the effect of the controls program on their incomes, could the minister tell the House whether an agreement has been reached with the provinces as to the form that the controls program will take in regard to professional incomes?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, in the most general terms it is as previously set out a number of times. It obviously will vary from province to province but we would expect to be able to agree on ways in which billing will be controlled so that there would be no excess of the guidelines as we have set them out in the House.

Mr. Broadbent: I hope we can progress beyond that, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister saying to the House that it is conceivable that in some provinces increases in salaries or professional fees well beyond the \$2,400 limit imposed on other people, will be possible?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I would just repeat the guidelines for the hon. gentleman. We stipulated that increases in fees shall be no more than is necessary to recover the additional costs of overhead plus a return to the individual not in excess of \$2,400 for the same amount of work. Obviously, if there is a further return resulting from longer hours of work—further productivity, if that term can be applied in the professional sector—the higher level would be available just as it will be available in the form of overtime to wage earners.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—SUGGESTED REDUCTION OF
LAWYERS' FEES IN CONNECTION WITH MORTGAGES

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): A final supplementary question. Considering that both in terms of equity and in terms of the effect of this program on all sections of the population, and in the hope of some letoff in pressures on home owners, would the minister consider taking steps immediately to alter the situation that now prevails with Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation? At present a lawyer obtains 1 per cent of the value of a mortgage for arranging financing and in addition can charge the home owner another 1 1/4 per cent for legal fees. This means thousands of dollars for the home purchaser. Would the minister consider changing the government's requirements in terms of mortgages as a means of getting at these high legal fees?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we sought to do that on a broader basis, with regard to all real estate transactions and not just those of the government of Canada. We recognize where the billing has been for a percentage of the value involved in the deal,