

Oral Questions

the Canadian government apparently had dropped, on May 4, its \$3,000 Grant Program promoting home ownership, and this had raised a number of questions. I see that the Minister responsible for the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation is in the House. I would now ask him the following question: Further to the representations made by thousands of Canadian renters who wanted to take advantage of the program and purchase a home under the federal program, and further to the many meetings which Members on this side had with the Minister to convey those representations submitted by thousands of Canadian residents, is the Minister willing to extend the program and accept the applications already filed with the various offices of the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation across Canada?

These are applications filed by people who wanted to buy homes but because of the bad weather conditions that have prevailed these last few months, building operations have been delayed. So I would ask the responsible Minister whether he wishes to state the government's intent as to the representations made by thousands of Canadians and discussed in caucus?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for raising this very important question. I am indeed amazed that the Opposition critic, to whom I had indicated my readiness to answer within 48 hours, has failed to do so. I am very pleased to report to this House that further to consultations with Cabinet Ministers, and especially the Minister of Finance, the Government is ready to accept all valid applications that were filed with the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation offices up to May 5, the date after which applications were no longer accepted.

I would also indicate that in the case of remote areas, rural areas where construction could not start, we will be accepting applications until June 15 to accommodate people in those parts of the country where construction operations are more difficult.

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[English]

TRADE**REQUEST FOR RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH POLAND**

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Since the Western Allies will be meeting in Williamsburg this weekend to deal with foreign debt problems in many countries, is the Prime Minister prepared to deal with the case of Poland which is one of the smaller international debtors when compared to Brazil and Mexico? Our trade with Poland has degenerated because of adherence to the Reagan line. Will the Prime Minister take a Canadian position at Williamsburg so that we can re-

establish our trading links with Poland? Specifically, what steps will the Prime Minister take, with or without his Summit partners, to resume trade with Poland?

● (1440)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, on that specific question I would have to defer to the Secretary of State for External Affairs for an answer. I am not sure whether any specific steps are being contemplated beyond the ones we have already taken and are following.

On the general matter of debt ridden Third World countries, or weaker countries, it is a concern that certainly will be discussed at Williamsburg and which I personally intend to bring to the attention of my colleagues at the Summit if it is not otherwise raised. It is certain that it is not only the huge debtors which must be of concern to us but the dozens and dozens of much smaller debtors, each of whom could see their economy and systems imperilled if the question of their debt is not addressed.

EXTENSION OF CREDITS

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Madam Speaker, I would like to go a little deeper into the subject. Poland has been our third largest grain purchaser, has a better debt record than either Mexico or Brazil, and we have extended credits to those countries. Will the Canadian Government extend credits to Poland for Canadian grain purchases, and allow us to sell some of the two million tonnes which we have on hand of frozen and damaged grain which the Poles will buy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the House knows we have extended credits to Poland to buy wheat.

Mr. Benjamin: Not lately.

Mr. Trudeau: If the Hon. Member is asking for further steps in that direction, once again I would have to defer to the Secretary of State for External Affairs for the answer.

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DISARMAMENT**INQUIRY RESPECTING PRIME MINISTER'S ROLE AT WILLIAMSBURG SUMMIT**

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I would like to follow up with the Prime Minister on the Williamsburg Summit and once again refer to the not so amusing musings of the Prime Minister with respect to the warlike nature of the President of the United States.

Since making those observations, has the Prime Minister had any personal discussions with President Reagan with respect thereto, and in pursuit of his honest broker role of trying to maintain an even handed approach with respect to Canada's approach to the Soviet Union and the United States,