

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, but I will take the suggestion of the hon. member under consideration.

Mr. Bell: Because of the direct federal involvement in many aspects which may develop and also the fact that a lack of federal interest may be misunderstood, would the Acting Prime Minister give this matter active consideration and even consider telephoning the Prime Minister out west?

Mr. Sharp: I thank the hon. member for his suggestion.

CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY

"MANHATTAN" PROJECT—REMARK BY
PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. Was there any implication in the remark of the Prime Minister last evening on television when he referred to the *Manhattan* project operating north of Canada?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I listened to the Prime Minister's comments and certainly as Secretary of State for External Affairs I find myself in full agreement with what he said.

Mr. MacInnis: Does it have any bearing on the sovereignty of Canada in the north?

Mr. Sharp: I perhaps misunderstood the subtlety of the question put by the hon. gentleman. May I say that I agree entirely with what the Prime Minister said to the effect that the voyage of the *Manhattan* does not reflect at all on the sovereignty of Canada.

Mr. MacInnis: In view of the fact the Prime Minister indicated last evening on television that he expects to accomplish nothing on his trip west, does the minister consider it a stupid trip?

HOUSING

URBAN RENEWAL—COMMITMENT RESPECTING
HAMILTON PROJECT

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Andras) in charge of housing. In light of the fact that the minister met with representatives from the city of Hamilton when I understand there was a discussion with regard to urban renewal projects, would the minis-

ter advise what transpired at that meeting and whether a firm commitment was given with regard to the Hamilton urban renewal project on York Street?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): No firm commitment was given except that a decision would be made as soon as possible. I hope to announce decisions in respect of urban renewal projects shortly. I had hoped to be in a position to do so today but I find I need further information both within government and from some of the communities. I hope to get on with it as quickly as possible because I realize the delays are causing some difficulty.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, may I take it from that that the minister does not intend to visit any urban centres prior to the time he makes his announcement but rather will be meeting with the representatives of the urban centres in Ottawa?

Mr. Andras: I do not see how any such inference can be taken. It may be necessary for me to visit some centres but, on the other hand, several representatives of the municipalities have been coming to see me. We may work in both ways.

Mr. Alexander: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker, if you will bear with me. May I take it then that the minister will not be able to hand down a decision until—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am afraid I cannot bear with the hon. member to this extent. The question is not in order.

AGRICULTURE

WESTERN CANADA—INQUIRY AS TO STATE-
MENT BY PRIME MINISTER ON RETURN
FROM TRIP

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of his earlier statement to the effect that the Prime Minister is in western Canada gathering first hand information about economic conditions there, can we be assured that the Prime Minister will be making a statement to the house upon his return regarding the government's intentions and policy in respect of the economic situation in western Canada?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Well, Mr. Speaker, as was said earlier in reply to a number of questions, there are certain decisions which cannot be long delayed such as a decision in respect of the