

minister tell us whether this was a contingent condition for the sale of an atomic energy plant to Roumania?

**Mr. Speaker:** I would think this question could be placed on the Order Paper. If there is urgency about the matter, it could be debated at the time of adjournment.

## INDIAN AFFAIRS

### CONTINUANCE OF LAND CLEARING

**Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia):** I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Since the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act comes under the minister's jurisdiction, and since the PFRA has embarked on a large-scale project of clearing land in Indian reserves on the prairies, and bearing in mind the recently announced program to take farmland out of production, can the minister advise whether or not these projects are to be discontinued?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** No, Mr. Speaker. That is not the intention of the department.

## HOUSING

### POLICY RESPECTING BUILDING SOCIETIES

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of housing. Has the government advised the province of Ontario formally of its decision with regard to building societies, and, if so, what was the decision?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio):** I understand that a letter has been sent by my colleague the Minister of Finance to the minister of trade and economic development of the province of Ontario. Perhaps when the Minister of Finance is in the House he could give a more definitive answer to the hon. member's question.

**Mr. Alexander:** In the light of the alarming decrease in building starts particularly in evidence in the province of Saskatchewan and in the cities of Toronto, Hamilton and Halifax at a time when the interest rate has reached an unprecedented 10.1 per cent, is the minister giving consideration to the creation of new lending institutions pursuant to the thought he expressed when he said that if the money lenders were not co-operating he would have to consider such a move? Is he considering

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

the establishment of new lending institutions? On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, will call the question out of order and the minister will not have to answer. What else is the minister waiting for?

**Mr. Andras:** Why doesn't the hon. member answer the question? He seems to have all the answers.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Any time you like.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. MacInnis:** Take your marbles home with you.

**Mr. Alexander:** On a point of order, I know the Minister without Portfolio is as interested in this question as I am—as we all are—and I would hope that the Chair would allow him to answer.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair did not prevent the minister answering. The minister had ample time in which to answer had he wanted to do so. For the moment, the Chair has recognized the hon. member for Gloucester.

[Later:]

**Mr. Alexander:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance of my question, and its relation to the present housing situation, I feel sure the minister would wish to reply. Since he was not prevented from doing so by the Chair, may I express the hope that he will answer my inquiry this afternoon?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio):** I appreciate the opportunity to reply, Mr. Speaker. We are considering all the options available to us in this matter of making a flow of mortgage money available for housing. The building society proposition did not, after thorough examination, seem to promise to provide more mortgage money. But we are looking at other options and I will be glad to report on them as they unfold.

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

### ENTRY OF NEW BRUNSWICK INTO MEDICARE

**Mr. Herb Breau (Gloucester):** Can the Minister of National Health and Welfare advise the House when New Brunswick will enter medicare?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.