

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## LEBANON—PARTICIPATION IN POSSIBLE PEACEKEEPING FORCE

**Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Recognizing the carnage and death of thousands of Lebanese, Palestinians, Syrians and Israelis in Lebanon, what is Canada's position regarding either an ad hoc or UN multilateral disengagement force? Is the Canadian government currently engaged, directly or indirectly, in bilateral discussions or negotiations through the UN regarding the establishment of and the participation by Canada in such a force?

**Mr. Ron Irwin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, we have not been asked to participate in a peacekeeping force but, as Mr. Danson, the former Minister of Defence, has said, we virtually invented peacekeeping, and if we are asked, if the parties agree, and if it is constructive, we will participate.

## HOMELAND FOR PALESTINIANS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West):** Madam Speaker, will the Prime Minister tell us what the government's current position is regarding Palestinian rights to national self-determination and security through the establishment of a homeland for the Palestinians?

**Mr. Ron Irwin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I would not use the word "self-determination" that the hon. member has used, but I think Canadians would want us to show the same compassion to Palestinians that we have traditionally shown to Israelis. Therefore, we do support a homeland for Palestinians. I think Canadians would want this government to do that, and that is what this government is doing.

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## HOUSING

## PROVINCIAL RENT REVIEW BOARD INCREASES

**Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. In the last few days there have been meetings between the Government of Canada and the mayors of various Canadian cities. Are there any meetings planned with provincial governments particularly with respect to rent review programs? I have in mind my own province where rent review boards are now granting rent increases of 15 per cent, 20 per cent, 35 per cent and 40 per cent, at a time when the Government of Canada is trying to bring us to the six and five world. These two things are incompatible. Is it the minister's intention to initiate such meetings with the appropriate provincial ministry wherever it is applicable, and particularly in Ontario?

**Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, as the representatives of the municipalities indicated after the meeting with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance yesterday, there are many areas, probably most, under

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which municipalities have to respond to provincial legislation and they cannot act independently. Rent controls are obviously a matter which impinges upon municipal operations through their housing authorities, but it is under the authority of the province because, under the Constitution, they have responsibility in that area.

As I have indicated, Madam Speaker, where the federal government has any operational impact we have announced that rent increases will be kept within six and five, such as projects under CMHC control. In that area, where we have the option, we are adopting the six and five rule. Where the provinces have jurisdiction, they will have to make up their own minds. I have talked to a half dozen of the provincial ministers, and I hope to conclude that in the next few weeks in discussions with other ministers. However, as I say, we are doing what we are able to do under the jurisdiction available to us.

## REQUEST THAT FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL MEETING BE CONVENED

**Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, I want to ask the minister a direct question. Is it his intention to convene a federal-provincial meeting with provincial housing ministers to look into the question of rising rents for people who are going to become more and more affected by curtailment of income? I would hope the answer to that question will be yes, because those people are being impinged upon as a result of rent review cases and landlords increasing rents. Surely that must be stopped if there is to be any justice in the six and five program?

**Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, I just indicated to the hon. member that I have already met with six of the provincial ministers of housing and I intend to meet with the balance in the next few weeks. We discussed many items right across the board. In so far as the federal responsibility is concerned, and the leeway that we have, CMHC has indicated that rents will not increase above the six and five mandate. In order to achieve that, as you know, the six and five applies to the wages of people employed by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. There are ways in which the federal government has demonstrated we can act to protect people in those rental projects. We hope that the example of the federal government will be followed and adopted by the provinces and by municipal corporations.

● (1200)

## CANADA MORTGAGE RENEWAL PLAN

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister responsible for housing. The only response by the government for those 500,000 Canadians facing mortgage renewal apparently has been the Canada Mortgage Renewal Plan, which would provide grants of up to \$3,000 for those whose mortgage interest payments exceed 30 per cent of gross income. The minister knows, or should know, that CMHC is currently