

Inquiries of the Ministry

this very important problem. I will entertain those views from any source and on any occasion.

Mr. Gilbert: A supplementary question. When does the minister expect to be in a position to make a statement in regard to guidelines for public housing?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier this month, there has been delay in this matter by virtue of the fact that we have not heard from all of the provinces regarding the recommendations they wish to make. When we have we shall digest those recommendations and produce a composite proposal. Then I believe we shall have to go back to the provinces with that composite proposal in order to get some kind of consensus, and at that time I will be glad to make a statement.

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister. Would the minister be prepared to disclose to the House today the 12 urban renewal projects, approval of which is being considered and which were not disclosed in the minister's statement yesterday?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, if hon. members insist then I would, of course, feel that they were entitled to that information. However, may I prevail upon them to be patient in view of the fact that we are discussing the matter with the provincial ministers concerned. They have indicated that they would prefer to have a few days in order to look the situation over and then they will communicate with me. As I say, if hon. members insist I will make such disclosure, but I think it will be in the interests of all to wait a few more days.

Mr. Alexander: A further supplementary question. I accept the minister's explanation in part, but may I ask him when he will be in a position to advise the House how much money is involved in these 12 projects that are being considered? In addition, would the minister advise whether those cities which received grants the last time will be assured that they will receive grants this time?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, the total amount of money involved in these schemes is approximately \$48 million. The cities or communities that received limited participation approval in August are not included in the 12 schemes, or the \$48 million to which I am referring insofar as additional funds for them are concerned.

[Mr. Andras.]

ASSISTANCE RESPECTING FACTORY-BUILT HOMES

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I have a related question. I appreciate that the minister is concerned about those people in Canada at the lower end of the income scale who find it difficult to get housing. Has the minister any information to give us regarding government financial assistance to factory-built homes, which he indicated earlier he was considering?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, we are assisting with that in the form of research. I had occasion about a month ago to see a very interesting prototype in Kenora, Ontario. I told the entrepreneur at the time that with one or two minor modifications we would be glad to endorse it. Suggestions of this sort are coming to us from time to time and we are receiving them enthusiastically. We are trying to act whenever they are valid.

Mr. Rose: Mr. Speaker, since the task force report also mentioned this, will the minister indicate whether his department is considering direct loans for the purchase of such factory-built homes?

Mr. Andras: We are not considering such direct loans, if the hon. member is talking about speculative loans under Section 40. We decided some time ago this year that we would not go ahead with this because we wanted to make direct loans under Sections 16 and 35 for low income housing units which would get on the ground as quickly as possible. We are glad to assist financially in the development of these factory-built and systems building programs in the form of research.

BUILDING SOCIETIES—REQUEST FOR FAVOURABLE TAX TREATMENT

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a related question to the Minister of Finance. Is he in a position to advise the House whether the government looks favourably on the suggestion of assistance to building societies in view of the fact that we are suffering from a dearth of mortgage money?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not think the question is in order.