

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[English]

**INDIAN AFFAIRS****PLANS TO DEAL WITH HOUSING FOR  
NATIVE PEOPLES**

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Since there is growing and disturbing evidence of very difficult housing conditions among our native Indian peoples, will the minister tell the house whether his department is giving particular and urgent attention to this problem and whether concrete plans for dealing with it are being developed?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, there has been for several years a program for the construction of houses for the Indians of Canada. Under this program, in force for the last three and a half years, 5,500 new houses have been built and we expect to complete it during the next three years. The government's purpose is to give decent housing to each family within this period of time. The program, which was to be for five years, was extended to seven years.

[English]

**Mr. Lewis:** A supplementary question. In view of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that the program has obviously proved inadequate and that some 500 homes cannot possibly deal with it, is the minister and the department considering allocating a much larger amount of money and creating more effective agencies to increase the number of homes for the Indian people?

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I am fully aware of the situation. I am deeply concerned and we are endeavouring to formulate perhaps more effective policies with a view to ensuring better housing conditions. However, I should like the hon. member to recognize that we have made considerable progress in that field in the last few years.

[English]

**Mr. Lewis:** Another supplementary question. This is directed to the Minister of Transport in his capacity as the minister in charge of housing. May I say, Mr. Speaker, I do not

[Mr. Fortin.]

quite agree he has made much progress, even though he did make some. In the report which the minister tabled the other day he recognized that the native people who do not come under the department of Indian affairs are suffering from shameful housing conditions. In view of the not very concrete recommendation in the report—and I have other adjectives which are not in order—

**Mr. Speaker:** I would ask the hon. member to ask his question.

**Mr. Lewis:** I am coming to the question. I would like to ask the minister whether he is considering allocating more adequate funds for the building of homes for the native people of this country?

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** There are two pilot projects under way at the present time, which are being pursued with dispatch. I think we have to engage in projects in these areas because there was inadequate research to really know exactly what should be done. I think it is a good idea to carry out these projects, and then to evaluate them, before going into a program of master building in these areas. As was recommended, this should be a continuous process; but I do think there is so much to be learned in these areas one should be very careful to make sure each program is evaluated before making it the basis for a wide program.

**Mr. Lewis:** We need homes.

**NATIONAL DEFENCE****PRESS REPORT CONCERNING DELAY IN  
ARMED SERVICES PENSIONS**

**Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of National Defence in order to allay consternation which I am sure is rampant in the armed services this morning, due to a news report in the *Globe and Mail* apparently quoting the Auditor General. This article is to the effect that it is the intention of the government to delay payment of armed services pensions to retired members of the armed services until they reach the age of 60. Since there must be some error in this, would the minister give us the facts?

**Hon. Leo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the article could not be more inaccurate, I am sorry to say. With regard to pensions, there is no change planned in respect of servicemen retiring after 20 or more years service or reaching