

tute a real co-ordination of federal policy efforts in the cities. It is rumoured that the federal government had decided not to help in future in the funding and financing of community action projects. I hope that those rumours will prove to be incorrect.

Lastly, the minister said that his ministry will devote much of its efforts to consultation, co-ordination and rationalization—I presume that this includes co-operation—with other levels of government. I hope that that will be more than talk. It is very difficult for the provinces to plan their co-operation with the federal government in certain circumstances. Recently the government of Manitoba was interested in a public housing project. Officials of that government came to Ottawa, to talk with the minister and with officials of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, because they hoped to spend over \$50 million for public housing in the next few years in Manitoba. The minister and Central Mortgage and Housing told them that they could get little more than \$30 million. It is difficult for provinces to plan when they are given only 60 per cent of the money they have requested to meet their plans. I am sure that Manitoba is not the only province that has found itself in this situation recently.

We wish the minister well. We hope that the planning and co-operation he has talked about eloquently are not just words. We hope that the result will be action, as opposed to the talk we have heard for so many years.

• (11:40 a.m.)

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, the minister responsible for housing has sent us, only a few moments ago, an English version of the summary report prepared by Dr. Lithwick of Carleton University, about urban problems in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I am constantly amazed to find since I have been in this House, the number of reports published by governments and the number of surveys they carry out at various intervals on Canadian problems.

What also amazes me is that after these reports are published, no policies are adopted to implement the recommendations included in these reports.

If this morning we refer to the summary report the minister circulated among us, we see that it only reminds us of the seriousness of urban problems in this country. It only serves to remind us that, and I quote from pages 1 and 3; "Our urban problems are serious and getting worse, but they can be handled."

This is nothing new to us or nothing that members of the House have not told the government in recent years. It only summarizes what hon. members have said with respect to urban grievances.

The report informs us also that if Canada has urban problems it is primarily due to the high cost of housing. The government was aware of that and we had already

### Urban Affairs

told them. This is also due to the lack of coordination between the federal and provincial governments in dealing with urban matters and housing.

Unfortunately and inasmuch as the summary report at hand indicates, I note that we are not given the means of solving the urgent problems regarding urban growth.

We have heard statements on the subject of high interest rates, but the report does not deal with it. Nothing is said regarding the cancellation of the tax on building materials which is a major obstacle to housing development in Canada. Neither is it stated that interest rates would be lowered. If the government wishes to have a good idea of the possible solutions, it would do well to publish a document similar to that which has been circulated to us lately, entitled: "How Your Tax Dollar Is Spent". It has only to act according to the example set out at page 28 which deals with the Canadian International Development Agency.

All we have to do is to establish in Canada a Canadian Urban Development Agency and to use it as we use the Canadian International Development Agency.

According to the report that I have in front of me, \$172 million are now available for loans to international organizations for international development. We have urban development problems in Canada. This morning, we received a summary report which is a reminder, but in which no solution is proposed.

I am still appalled at the number of commissions that study Canada's problems. But, unfortunately, the government does not ensure coordination.

I think that municipal authorities fully realize what they have to contend with in the field of urban development, but the one and only authority responsible for this deplorable situation is the federal government which will not allow them to take any action because it does not put at their disposal the funds needed to fight effectively urban problems in such areas as housing, water-works and sewers; these are all very urgent problems considering the demographic explosion in Canada and the lack of interest on the part of the different governments during the past 25 or 30 years.

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[English]

### FISHERIES

#### STATEMENT ON PHASING OUT OF FOREIGN FISHING OPERATIONS ON EAST COAST

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement this morning about the phasing out of foreign fishing operations on Canada's east coast. The decision to promulgate our fisheries closing lines, as hon. members will recall, was announced in December. These long closing lines will apply shortly to certain large bodies of water including the Gulf of St. Lawrence.