

and officials of CMHC, we have identified a need and an opportunity for introducing what we hope will be lower than market housing in that project. I can assure the hon. member that we are concerned. We have been able to respond in reallocations of budget. With the co-operation of local officials, and of the provincial minister, I am hopeful, as I said, that with possible provincial add-ons to our MURB program that we can address that problem.

Mr. Cook: Madam Speaker, I thank the minister for a fairly detailed answer but it does not deal with the present crisis. When he talks about MURBs, that is long-term planning. I am talking about short-term planning. In terms of anything firm, all I have got from this minister is 800 social housing units this year. Out of that 800, does the minister really feel that is sufficient for a population which is moving into the province at the rate of 30,000 people a year?

Mr. Siddon: Answer that one.

Mr. Cosgrove: Madam Speaker, the hon. member is either not aware of the response of CMHC in terms of social housing, or his figures must be confused. On Monday and Tuesday of this week I had an opportunity to walk through sites which have a total of 3,000 social housing units which were designated last year and are presently being constructed.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): That is ten to a room.

Mr. Cosgrove: I ask the hon. member to check his facts before he wishes a reaction to occur upon us, although it is a very serious situation.

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CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

PROCEDURES GOVERNING SALE OF REPOSSESSED DWELLINGS

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, my questions are for the minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The minister will know that in Mississauga his department has control over 900 repossessed townhouses and condominiums.

Mr. Kempling: Send them out to B.C.

Mr. Blenkarn: The minister knows that these units are selling, that the market is improving, but they are being sold for \$10,000 to \$20,000 below their cost. One of the problems is that they are being sold for cash. The purchasers have to arrange their own financing. Will the minister undertake to the House that these houses will not be sold wholesale to speculators and investors but will be sold directly to owners and occupants so that the speculators will not again rip off Canada?

● (1450)

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): I am very pleased to respond to the hon. member. The first objective

Oral Questions

of sales by the corporation is to ensure that the sales are to home owners, people who will occupy and use the property for home owner purposes. The hon. member will recognize that when the market was difficult some two years ago, and his government authorized an additional \$200 million to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to address the problem of the mortgage insurance fund, that market was different and the procedures were different. I would like to assure him that we are addressing the home ownership question.

Mr. Blenkarn: With the high interest rate policy of the government, interest rates up again today, and at 17 per cent or more for 11 weeks, the minister's policy is to sell these houses for all cash, with purchasers having to arrange their own financing. It is exceptionally difficult to get realistic interest rate financing on the market. That is the reason the minister is taking low ball prices for these properties. Will the minister rearrange the sales program so that CMHC will take back vendor mortgages at realistic interest rates for people who intend to occupy these homes?

Mr. Cosgrove: As I already indicated to the hon. member, Madam Speaker, in view of the tightening and improved market, the corporation is looking to achieve the best prices it can to replenish the mortgage insurance fund. I cannot respond favourably to the hon. member's question or his request that we possibly take a lower interest rate than would normally be possible or, indeed, that we take vendor mortgages. Our objective in this exercise, as I indicated, is to replenish the mortgage insurance fund which had a \$200 million advance by the hon. member's government in 1979.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

QUERY RESPECTING LEGISLATION COVERING STATUS OF WOMEN

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In November, 1980, the Canadian government replied to questions of the United Nations Human Rights Committee regarding discrimination against Indian women with specific reference to the case of Sandra Lovelace. The government indicated that it was preparing legislation to end such discrimination and to give Indian bands power to pass non-discriminatory bylaws concerning membership. Can the minister tell the House when this legislation will be introduced? Can he inform us what process of consultation is being followed with Indian organizations, particularly organizations which specifically represent Indian women?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, dealing with the latter part of the question first, I announced several months ago that I have power under the present Indian Act and that if the chief and band council, by band council resolution, ask me to exercise my powers under the Indian Act to give exemption