[Translation]

HOUSING

SUPPLYING OF INFORMATION TO QUEBEC MUNICIPALITIES ON AMENDEMENTS TO ACT

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs.

Can the minister tell the House whether the enactment of Bill C-133 has benefited Canadians? Could he indicate at the same time if Quebec municipalities have been provided with information on how to take advantage of that new legislation?

[English]

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the last part is yes. There have been consultations and discussions with the Quebec Housing Corporation and we trust through them with the municipalities involved. Also, there is a distribution of material on the amendments to the National Housing Act in Bill C-133 that is available and has been sent to municipal leaders, housing group leaders and others. The extent they have been taken advantage of would depend on the particular program involved. As the Prime Minister has indicated, at this point we are disappointed at the reaction we have had from the provinces to the land assembly provisions. On the other hand, we are anxious that the assisted home ownership provisions be used as widely as possible, not only in Quebec.

[Translation]

CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY PROJECTS—POSSIBILITY OF ASSISTANCE TO MUNICIPALITIES BY DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Can the minister indicate whether the municipalities which will benefit from that new legislation will be entitled to assistance from the Department of Regional Economic Expansion for the implementation of those community programs?

[English]

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, municipalities can take advantage of the land assembly provisions, the neighbourhood improvement provisions, the repair and rehabilitation provisions. I hope that municipal leaders, not only in Quebec but throughout Canada, will take notice of these provisions and use them as effectively as they can.

ENERGY

OIL—PROPOSED EXTENSION OF PIPELINE TO MONTREAL—ACCESS TO QUEBEC MARKET FOR OIL DISCOVERED OFF ATLANTIC COAST

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who has said he will review the position with regard to a pipeline to Montreal if the

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government of Quebec can negotiate an assured supply of crude oil for the Quebec market. In this policy of the minister's what provision is there for access to the Quebec market for any oil discovered off the Atlantic coast?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, one of the best assurances we could have, in view of the problem of insecurity in eastern Canada—

Mr. Stanfield: That is not my question.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): —would be to discover a substantial supply of economic oil off the east coast. Of course, until such a find is made this remains a hypothetical question.

Mr. Stanfield: In view of the insistence of the minister that the government of Quebec negotiate an assured supply, which presumably involves a firm contract over a significant period of time in the future, to avoid a pipeline, what provision is there in the minister's policy for any access to the Quebec market for oil discovered off the Atlantic coast?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): As soon as there is any oil off the Atlantic coast worthy of any consideration we would, of course, make arrangements for that in the policy, but, as the hon. member knows, at the moment there is no commercial find there that can be exploited and we do not know how many years away we are from such a find.

Mr. Stanfield: I have one other supplementary question. What assurance is the government prepared to give to any company that would build a pipeline from Toronto to Montreal with regard to continued access to half the Quebec market? What is there in the present policy of the government to assure the pipeline builder of half the market regardless of what oil may be discovered off the Atlantic coast?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): There is a range of assurances that could be given and it is a matter of negotiation. Among others, there is the requirement that a specific degree of throughput be refined there. The exact terms would be a matter of negotiation between the government and whatever consortium would happen to build the pipeline.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO INCREASES IN WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCES

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the fact that there are to be increases in old age pensions and family allowances next month, and in view of the minister's statement that the government will treat veterans with fairness, may I ask if the minister is now in a position to indicate precisely what steps the government will take, having in mind in particular veterans who are on the war veterans allowance?