

Oral Questions

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, once again the Hon. Member is clearly misinformed. The fact is, as far as our Department is concerned, press releases are issued with respect to certain transactions and not issued with respect to other transactions. For example, the Memorandum of Understanding that contemplated a \$50-million series of transactions involving Magna did not have a press release under the former Government. The process for approving transactions—and I hope the Hon. Member understands this, it certainly has been mentioned to him before—is not solely at my discretion. We have an Economic Development Board that is made up of five Ministers and they pass on the applications.

MINISTER'S ROLE

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, maybe it is because we have suspicious minds on this side of the House, but it seems awfully strange that press releases are not issued when three grants are made to Magna. I would like to put the question to the Minister again. Did the Minister instruct his staff not to issue press releases with respect to the three grants to Magna totalling \$4 million? If so, why did he so instruct his staff?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am still waiting for an explanation from some member of the Loyal Opposition why, when the Liberal Memorandum of Understanding was entered into there was no press release? Let me assure the Hon. Member that I have never given instructions to our department with respect to any transaction to issue a press release or not to issue a press release.

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EXTERNAL AID

STUDY OF ASSISTANCE FOR WOMEN IN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is on a much different subject and is directed to the Minister for External Relations. I understand that a Canadian study concerning assistance to women and development in underdeveloped countries in relation to health clinics, education for women and training opportunities has been underway for some time. Would the Minister tell the House when the report will be available?

[Translation]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for her question. I may remind her that the subject is being examined and that a response is expected shortly on this matter.

Tuesday, I announced, in connection with Africa 2000, that I would be tabling a policy on the integration of women in the

development process, and I have a very special and personal interest in this question.

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[English]

THE ADMINISTRATION

MINISTER OF REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION—
INVESTIGATION INQUIRY

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Was the Deputy Prime Minister aware at the time that he investigated the potential conflict of interest of the Minister responsible for regional industrial expansion that the son of the man who made the \$2.6 million interest-free loan for one year to the wife of the Minister had also received grants or loans from the Minister's Department?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister): The Hon. Member uses incorrect terminology when he uses the term "investigation". That is not my responsibility. My responsibility is to ensure that there has been compliance with the Code of Conduct governing public office holders. Those records are public in the office of the ADRG, and are there for him to examine if he should wish to take the trouble to do so. If he examines the records, and asks the ADRG, he will be told that there has been compliance by the Minister.

ACTING PRIME MINISTER'S KNOWLEDGE

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is again to the Deputy Prime Minister. Maybe I will use the right terminology and he will answer the question. Was he or was he not aware at the time that, in fact, the Minister's Department had made loans to the son of the man who had made a loan to the Minister's wife?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister): I can answer that simply by saying that I read the newspapers, as does the hon. gentleman. My responsibility is, as I have described it, to see that the compliance that is required of the Minister has been had, and I am satisfied as to that. That is my responsibility.

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CANADA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ROLE OF BURNS FRY IN SHARE OFFERING

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. Will the Minister tell the House how and why he chose Burns Fry as the lead firm in the public offering of 23