

Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Housing Commission, to determine the circumstances under which building lots were sold in the lower Sackville area with a guarantee that neighbouring land, as set forth in a plan signed by the commission, given to each purchaser with his deed, would be used for church, school and park purposes, a guarantee that has now been torn up by the Nova Scotia Housing Commission, with the exception of the lot that was promised a church, and instead replaced with an attempted sale to something called the Sackville Town Centre Development Company which plans a shopping centre? I ask this question because money from all over Canada has gone into this development through CMHC.

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of the question so I was able to check into it. It is quite right that the town has changed its plan. In fact, it is following a plan that is different from the one first submitted. I have talked to our officials in the area and they have pointed out to me that they have no right, under the loan arrangement for residential land, to stop the town from proceeding with the proposed enlargement of the shopping centre facilities. I will take it upon myself, with the help of the hon. member, to make further representations to the city authorities in order possibly to get them to change their minds; but if they do not, unfortunately CMHC has no authority to force them to do so.

Mr. McCleave: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the minister is so co-operative, may I ask him whether he would mind joining me in a vigorous debate at ten o'clock, when perhaps this parliament can tell the Nova Scotia government that it is not going to get away with stunts like this in the future.

* * *

● (1500)

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

APPOINTMENT OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL—ALLEGATION MR. STONER ARGUED AGAINST APPOINTMENT

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. Could the minister confirm that Mr. O. G. Stoner, now Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, who has been appointed as one of the commissioners, was one of those among the senior civil servants who argued against the implementation of the Auditor General's recommendation that a comptroller general be established at a deputy minister level reporting to the President of the Treasury Board?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of the opinion held by Mr. Stoner on this matter. He has made no such opinion known to me, and I have no knowledge of it.

Oral Questions

HOUSE OF COMMONS

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL RESEARCHERS FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I will direct my supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact the Public Accounts Committee at almost every meeting is deluged by a veritable army of civil servants, all of whom at least purport to be experts in their fields, is the government considering increasing the research staff for members of the committee, having in mind the fact that this is the most important committee of this House at this time and we are in desperate need of more than one researcher who is already desperately overworked?

Hon. John C. Munro (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if this is a representation I will check with my colleagues and let the hon. member know.

APOLOGY TO MR. SPEAKER

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I am concerned lest an unbecoming flippancy and cheekiness on my part yesterday be misconstrued. It was generated, if I can apologize, by a bit of barracking that was going on, and it might be construed as being disrespectful of the Chair or its occupant, for whom I have the highest respect. I meant the intervention to be good natured. In the light of day I see that it is not really good natured but is repugnant, and I apologize for it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I might emphasize that my look of astonishment yesterday I am sure should have, if it did not, reflect the fact that I can hardly think of a member less likely than this hon. member to direct intentional disrespect not only to the Chair but in fact to any member of this House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

PRIVILEGE

MR. CROSBIE—COMPLAINT ABOUT STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege has to do with the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Jamieson) regarding a question of mine and I would refer you to *Hansard* of November 16, 1976. I asked the minister a question about the Argentina naval base and I would like to give a little bit of background to illustrate the point.