

## Oral Questions

does the President of the Privy Council propose to resolve problems arising from the provisions of the Salaries Act?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the question is based on a false assumption.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, if there is to be an announcement almost immediately, which is quite possible, it would be very nice if it were made in the House. Given that, contrary to the provisions of Section 25 of the Government Reorganization Act of 1970, there are now more parliamentary secretaries than full ministers listed under Section 4 of the Salaries Act, at least in so far as we know at this moment, can the President of the Privy Council tell us which parliamentary secretary is or was not receiving a salary during the hiatus since the resignation of the hon. member for Papineau, and who will have to pay the money back?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, I did not catch all the words of the question, but I think the hon. gentleman might note that there will be an announcement this afternoon regarding a new minister of consumer affairs.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## CUBA—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF AGREEMENT COVERING AIRCRAFT AND TRAINING OF PILOTS

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister and relates to the agreement with Cuba last week by Air Canada covering DC-8 aircraft and the training of Cuban pilots, which the Prime Minister said on March 31 had been modified by the government. Will he now table the terms of that agreement?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Air Canada comes under the Minister of Transport and I do not believe it is customary for him to table contracts with any Crown corporation, but with his usual tolerance and openmindedness I am sure he will look into this question.

**Mr. Paproski:** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Will he undertake to inform the House of the terms of the agreement regarding the number of aircraft and the training of pilots?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I was not listening to the first part of the question, but, if it referred to the arrangement between Air Canada and Cuba, I will certainly determine whether there is any problem in that regard as far as Air Canada is concerned. I will certainly try to get that information for the hon. member.

● (1450)

## CUBA—PLACE AND DATE OF MINISTERS' PROTEST AGAINST PRESENCE OF TROOPS IN ANGOLA

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Replying to a question from the hon. member for South Shore on March 31, the Prime Minister stated the Secretary of State for External Affairs had publicly protested the presence of Cuban troops in Angola. Would the minister give the place and date of these protests and make the texts available to the House?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Well, Mr. Speaker, the month was January. The date escapes me for the moment. The place was Jerusalem.

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## FINANCE

## REASON PROJECTIONS FOR INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT ARE NOT COMPARABLE WITH THOSE OF UNITED STATES

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Bearing in mind that this administration when it suits its purpose likes to blame international forces, especially those in the United States, for its economic failures, can the minister explain to the House why his projections of inflation in 1976 are now one half as much again as those revealed by the Treasury Department of the United States and why Canadian forecasts of unemployment are one per cent higher than the United States and yet Canadian real growth is expected to be almost 2 per cent lower than in the United States.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Well, Mr. Speaker, I remind the hon. gentleman that the United States went through about a 6 per cent recession in the past 18 months. If he is advocating that kind of economic future for Canada, I would have to disagree with him.

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is also for the Minister of Finance. Bearing in mind his comments about a 6 per cent recession in the United States, would the minister indicate if he is aware that Canada's inflation level gap between here and the United States is now 5 points and is growing. This five-point gap in respect of inflation is the highest gap in recorded history between the United States and this country. Could he explain, over and above what he has indicated, why the Americans appear to be containing inflation without controls better than we are with controls.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I would just remind the hon. gentleman that if he would prefer a 10 per cent rate of unemployment, which the Americans have had during the recession, that of course has a certain affect on inflation.