

enter into an agreement-postponing mortgage whereby the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce mortgage would have precedence over the Minister's mortgage? Could he check that, too, while he is at it?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the Hon. Member is implying. It is obvious that Members opposite are leading up to another series of accusations based on suspicion, innuendo, and unfounded rumour. I might say that they are obviously doing this with the full blessing of their Leader.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Willowdale.

Mr. Crosbie: Sleazebag Incorporated!

Mr. Oostrom: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs—

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): That is why we had to put the Mounties on the last one, John.

Mr. Crosbie: He's apparently at it again.

Mr. Blaikie: It's your own guy who is going to ask a question.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to point out that on Friday, in an attempt to give every opportunity to members to ask questions, Question Period was extended for some minutes. We cannot do that every day. I know that Hon. Members will respect the fact that there are other Hon. Members who will want to be heard today. The Hon. Member for Willowdale.

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WAR CRIMINALS

UNITED NATIONS FILES—ACCESS BY STATE OF ISRAEL

Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Members of the Congregation B'nai Torah and myself are very concerned that the United Nations is currently holding some 38,000 closed files on World War II war criminals. Has the State of Israel approached Canada for its support in being able to examine these files? If so, will Canada give its permission?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I understand the situation, this was the subject of questions in the House two or three weeks ago. The State of Israel and other Governments and, indeed, judicial and quasi-judicial bodies of other Governments, have the right of access to those files. The right of access by individuals is denied. I think the House will understand that that makes sense, given the fact that those files contain many

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allegations that are not in a position to be verified. Thus we have not been approached by the State of Israel. But I do believe that there would not be any need for an approach to occur since Israel, under a decision by the Secretary General, has as a state that right of access.

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VIA RAIL

ACQUISITION OF ROLLING STOCK

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport concerning VIA Rail. On Thursday when I questioned the Deputy Prime Minister he was unable to give me a specific answer with respect to whether or not the Government has decided not to purchase new Canadian-built rolling stock for VIA Rail. Will the Minister please advise the House and the people of Canada whether the Government is planning to go ahead with this project or not?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I cannot advise the Minister because we have not made any final decision yet. But a final decision will be made certainly in a few days or in the next several weeks as to whether or not the Government can provide the additional funds that are needed in order to acquire this equipment, or just what other steps will be taken. I hope to get back to the Hon. Member shortly on that.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for the promotion.

PROPOSAL TO BUILD AND LEASE CARS TO VIA RAIL

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is the following. Is the Government prepared, if it decides it does not have the capital money to do this project, to consider seriously and accept the proposal of Transconsortium, Bombardier and UTDC, that it will finance and produce the cars and lease them to VIA Rail for 20 years?

• (1450)

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am certainly prepared to consider any proposal that the consortium makes. If the proposal does not involve any expenditure of money by the Government or VIA Rail, it will of course be even that more much attractive. As you know, the cars still have to be paid for and leasing is just another method of financing. However, I would look at any proposal they wish to make.