

COMMEMORATIVE GOLD COINS—STEPS TO PROTECT PUBLIC  
FROM CONFUSION AND COUNTERFEITING

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Postmaster General? As there will be some confusion, owing to the minting of two similar gold coins bearing different weights of gold, and as there are indications that there will undoubtedly be attempts to confuse the consumer with foreign counterfeits, will the minister advise the House of the steps he intends to take to protect the Canadian public from counterfeit coins, and from the obvious confusion which the two gold coins will create?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, the confusion will occur only in the minds of those lacking intelligence to distinguish between two distinct coins. If you want to buy coins, the safest way to protect yourself against counterfeiting or fraud is to know the people from whom you are buying the coins. Fortunately, the gold coins will be sold by chartered banks, accredited agencies and outlets across Canada and around the world. These outlets I think will provide maximum protection against fraud.

While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I want to make something clear to the hon. member for York-Simcoe. When answering a reporter's question he suggested we had a moral obligation to share in the Olympic deficit. I said that while we may have a moral obligation, we have no legal obligation. Next time the hon. gentleman asks a question of concern to the Postmaster General, I wish he would put it directly to the Postmaster General so that I can inform the House of his normal bias against Olympics in general.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR SUBSIDY ON BREAD AND FLUID MILK—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In light of the finding of the Food Prices Review Board in its most recent report on bread and milk that:

The substantial price increases in milk and bread over the past two years probably caused considerable hardship to many Canadians, especially those with fixed and limited incomes . . .

And given that this hardship is being incurred despite measures the government has already taken, namely, its current subsidy on skim milk powder and the two-price wheat system, will the minister now take action to reinstate the subsidy on fluid milk and also place a substantial consumer subsidy on brown and white bread?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** No, Mr. Speaker.

BREAD—INQUIRY WHETHER DECREASE IN COST OF SUGAR  
TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN SETTING PRICE

**Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister been monitoring

Oral Questions

the increases in the price of bread and, if so, can he assure the House that the dramatic decrease in the cost of sugar is being accurately reflected in present prices since, in the February, 1974 Food Prices Review Board report, the increasing price of sugar was used to justify increases in bread prices.

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the Food Prices Review Board has a very clear mandate on this matter and I think it is taking its responsibilities in an admirable fashion.

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[English]

POST OFFICE

SUGGESTED DECREASE IN NUMBER OF NEW STAMP ISSUES

**Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. I know that he has been busy recently with other matters. I ask him if he will, when he has time, consider the advisability of halting the proliferation of new stamp issues, in view of Canada's diminishing reputation with philatelists who, after all, give the Post Office its only profit by buying unused stamps, and in view of the high cost of tooling for new stamp issues.

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I know that because of the Olympics, we are issuing more stamps than usual. I think the hon. gentleman will agree that the two recent stamps, one in honour of the Calgary Stampede and the other commemorating L. M. Montgomery of Anne of Green Gables are among the finest stamps in the world.

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ENERGY

OIL—CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR ASSURING SUPPLIES TO  
EAST COAST REFINERIES

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Prime Minister? It has to do with security of sources of oil for Atlantic coast refineries. I directed this question to the Prime Minister the other day, as the two principal refineries in Halifax, the Imperial Oil refinery and the Texaco refinery, will run out of crude and other light oils for refining some time next week. Can the Prime Minister tell the House what he has been advised by officials with respect to contingency plans for security of crude oil or other energy fuel supplies for the metropolitan area?

● (1130)

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, if I might be allowed to answer, we have contingency plans to assure that there will be no shortage of crude oil. There will be a transfer from large to small vessels. This operation was supposed to start yesterday but did not because of sea conditions. It is now supposed