

*Oral Questions***NUCLEAR ENERGY****GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES ON PROMOTION OF CANDU SALES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43**

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Madam Speaker, I also rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Before the government came to its senses and realized the so-called sale of two Candu reactors to Roumania was an economic farce and would never result in the actual transfer of paid-for nuclear technology, the Roumanian government had spent \$44 million of a low interest Export Development Corporation loan provided to finance the sale.

This week we learned that the Lopez Portillo government in Mexico has put the whole idea of nuclear megaprojects on hold indefinitely and that the \$5 million AECL spent to prepare and promote its Mexican reactor bid is just another in the long list of fruitless mega-write-offs of taxpayers' money to the Canadian nuclear industry. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Beaches (Mr. Young):

● (1415)

That this House instruct the government to stop squandering taxpayers' money on nuclear megamania both at home and abroad, and further, that the government spend the accrued savings on a policy improvement which would direct the savings to the development of Canada's conservation, solar and alternative fuels industries.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Madam Speaker: Oral questions.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**FUNDS LENT TO NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance who undoubtedly has noted the financial assistance given to the New York Metropolitan Trans. Authority which was announced yesterday. It got a loan at 9.7 per cent to run for 15 years, to 1997. If the government has been able to find this kind of money to lend to the New York authority, would the minister indicate if there is similar money available that could be offered to transit authorities in Canada or other worthy groups who would like 9.7 per cent financing for the next 15 years?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the financing to which the hon. member refers was provided through the Export Development Corporation and is justified, of course, by the very substantial benefits it will provide to Canada. I would

have thought that the hon. member would agree that this project was a very desirable one from the Canadian point of view and that, in the present circumstances, we ought to stretch every possible and legitimate method of securing business for Canada. This will have very important employment effects in Quebec particularly, but also in the province of Ontario.

Mr. Stevens: Madam Speaker, I might comment that certainly employment in Canada is fine but did it never dawn on the government that two things could be accomplished—help for Canadian transit authorities and the creation of jobs in Canada if funding at 9.7 per cent for 15 years were available?

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TRANSPORT**AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES**

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, perhaps I may put a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport. Would he indicate if this type of funding is available to similar authorities in Montreal, Vancouver, Toronto and Edmonton, for example? The New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority is boasting in New York this morning that, thanks to the Canadian government, it has saved over \$300 million on its transportation acquisition.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I thought the Minister of Finance explained very, very well that this was an export oriented matter. Now I am going to do what I do not think I should do, because it is dangerous—I am going to thank publicly the Minister of Finance for his help to transportation in recent months. He has provided \$1.3 billion for western rail transportation. He has increased the budget for my department by \$20 million last year, \$40 million this year, and \$60 million next year for air transportation and the building of airports.

Mr. Clark: Whose money?

Mr. Pepin: Canadian money. That is his job, and that is what he has done. I could go on giving a long list, but the end of the list would be the amount of money he has provided for research and development into transportation in Canada. That is \$20 million.

The sale to the United States also has to be seen in terms of Canadian transportation because the equipment that Bombardier is going to export to the United States will add to the equipment that Canadian cities will be able to procure.

Mr. Stevens: Madam Speaker, we must note that the Minister of Transport carefully avoided admitting that he has not offered a red cent to Canadian transit authorities. He is the man who has crippled Canadian VIA rail services from coast to coast.