

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

LEGALITY OF GOVERNOR GENERAL'S WARRANTS USED
TO PROVIDE FUNDS

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Justice whether he was requested to give and did he give a legal opinion as to the legality of these Governor General's warrants? If so, would he table that legal opinion?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, we were certainly involved in the analysis of that action, and I can assure the hon. member that the action was legal and proper.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lang: It is not the practice, of course, to table legal opinions in the House.

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COMMUNICATIONS

BELL CANADA RATE INCREASE APPLICATION—INQUIRY
AS TO OPPOSITION BY GOVERNMENT—REQUEST FOR
HEARINGS IN OTHER CENTRES THAN OTTAWA

Mr. Terry Grier (Toronto-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Communications. In view of the fact the governments of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec are appearing before the Canadian Transport Commission to state their opposition to Bell Canada's application for rate increases, will the minister indicate whether the government of Canada is now prepared to do the same?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, this matter was not looked into but I am prepared to consider it in the light of the question of the hon. member.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps we might allow the hon. member to ask a supplementary question and then I will recognize the hon. member for Don Valley.

Mr. Grier: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that at least at the present time the government does not intend to make such a statement, and because many individuals and groups, including municipalities, have indicated they would like to appear before the commission to state their opposition to this application but are unable to attend Ottawa hearings because of problems of cost and time, will the minister request the commission to hold hearings in centres other than the city of Ottawa?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, it is a matter we can look into, but I forgot to specify earlier that many representations are received by the department which not only

Oral Questions

passes them on to the commission but also insists that they be given careful attention.

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• (1140)

[English]

BANK OF CANADA

INQUIRY AS TO RECOMMENDATION BY BOARD OF
DIRECTORS CONCERNING NEXT GOVERNOR—REQUEST
FOR PUBLISHING OF MINUTES

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Will the minister tell us whether or not the board of directors of the Bank of Canada has made a recommendation to the government as to whom the next governor should be and whether the government has accepted that recommendation?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Gillies: When that decision is made, would the minister recommend to the governor that the minutes of the Bank of Canada be published on a delayed basis so we could have more information on how monetary policy is being made in this country?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): That is a useful recommendation. I do not know whether the hon. member is preaching for a call or not.

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HOUSING

REQUEST FOR REDUCTION OF SALES TAX ON BUILDING
MATERIALS TO ABATE INFLATION

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In light of the increase in shelter costs of 1.2 points this month which, coupled with the past 12 months, means there has been about a 10 point increase, is the government considering reducing the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials to abate inflation in the housing sector?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for York Simcoe has a supplementary.

REQUEST THAT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF SPECIAL
COMMITTEE ON FOOD PRICES BE ENLARGED TO
INCLUDE HOUSING

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Secretary of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the continuing rise in the costs of housing and shelter generally in Canada, would the minister now agree to amend the motion before the House to appoint a committee to inquire into the trend in food prices so the committee may also inquire into the trend in shelter and housing costs as well?