

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the main estimates tabled today by my colleague the President of the Treasury Board include only authorized expenditures as of this date. I said on budget day, and the President of the Treasury Board repeated today, that in comparing total outlays—budgetary, non-budgetary, including supplementary estimates, all loans and obligations of the government, the old age assistance plan, unemployment insurance—the total outlays for 1975-76 over 1974-75 are still estimated to be in the range I projected on budget night.

Mr. McGrath: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister in fact set down guidelines on government spending, and is in fact the current increase in government spending within these guidelines?

● (1530)

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, as the President of the Treasury Board answered, subject to situations we have not contemplated up to this moment, we hope that the projected increases in expenditures as estimated in the budget will be fulfilled. I would refer the hon. gentleman to the statement of the President of the Treasury Board earlier in the session.

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PUBLIC BUILDINGS

BOURDIGNON BUILDING, VANCOUVER—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR LEASE

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I should like to draw the attention of the Minister of Public Works to a recent advertisement in Vancouver under the public works banner and over the signature of Mr. MacLeod, regional manager of property services, which calls for lease proposals for 206,000 square feet of air conditioned office space in the city of Vancouver. The description, occupancy date and location required for this space were such that only one building, the nearly completed Bourdignon building in the Marpole area, could possibly qualify, and all other developers were therefore prevented from submitting proposals. I would ask the minister whether he will conduct a thorough investigation into what appears to be a sham advertisement calling for proposals, to the detriment of the taxpayers, especially in view of the fact that the Department of National Revenue had already agreed to lease the Bourdignon building before this advertisement was placed, as evidenced by the statement of government employees that the Income Tax Department in Vancouver would be moving in July of this year into a Marpole building.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, without agreeing in any way that this is a sham advertisement, I would be glad to look into the matter.

Oral Questions

ESTIMATES

DATE OF TABLING SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES D, 1974-75

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board which relates to a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition. Now that we have had the bad news in respect of expenditures for next year, will the minister tell the House when he proposes to table Supplementary Estimates (D) for 1974-75, and how much more money will be added to government expenditures for that year?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, we are getting ready to table out final estimates in the House in the next few days.

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[English]

FINANCE

ALLEGED OMISSION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES D, 1974-75 FROM BUDGET OF NOVEMBER 18

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance, that minister who, when he is not winking and blinking, may be nodding. In view of the statement by the President of the Treasury Board that there are to be additional estimates tabled, which I understand will be in the nature of something in excess of \$500 million, will he explain why in his budget of November 18 he forgot about supplementary estimates (D) when tabling the expenditures amounting to \$24,850 million?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, these were not forgotten, but it will take me some time to explain to the hon. member on an appropriate occasion.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF REPORT BY YORK ADVERTISING LIMITED OF OTTAWA

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration concerns a confidential report about the unemployment insurance commission, commissioned by the government at considerable cost to the Canadian taxpayer and submitted by York Advertising Limited of Ottawa. In this report there are very disturbing findings such as that on page eight which refers to "programs we have witnessed appear to be based on some combination of hunches and ad hockery", as well as the observation on page 26 that "the UIC has been considered a dumping ground for incompetents and a career deadend".

Some hon. Members: Order, order!

Mr. O'Sullivan: In view of the concern of members of this House about the Unemployment Insurance Commis-