

*Oral Questions*

[English]

**PUBLIC WORKS**SUGGESTED DELAY IN LES TERRASSES DE LA CHAUDIÈRE  
PROJECT PENDING INQUIRY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the revelations in respect of surplus space and improper planning and use of space contained in the recent report of the Auditor General, and because of the excessive amortization rate contracted by the government at a time when interest rates had peaked, along with other disadvantageous business considerations not in the taxpayers' interest, and because of the scheduled transfer of \$50 million on December 1 to the promoter of Les Terrasses de La Chaudière, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. MacKay):

That the Minister of Public Works arrange a moratorium on further construction until the whole matter can be reassessed by a relevant parliamentary committee, and possible alternatives to the participation of the government of Canada in this project have been explored.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Pursuant to Standing Order 43 the presentation of such a motion can only be made with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**DRAFT REPORT OF OECD ON CANADA'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS—  
INQUIRY IF GOVERNMENT CHECKING ON ACCURACY

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance and also the Prime Minister I should like to put my question to the Acting Minister of Finance. As the Minister of Finance has referred to OECD reports which he has stated forecast a slowdown in the real growth of major industrial nations, will the Acting Minister of Finance indicate whether his department has received for editing a draft OECD report on Canada's economic prospects and, if so, will he confirm or otherwise that such report predicts a 3 per cent real growth for this nation in the latter half of 1977, which the report refers to as a mini-recession?

**Mr. Bob Kaplan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, no such draft has been received here in the Department of Finance. I did see the report in the *Montreal Gazette* this morning. I inquired into it and have the following information for hon. members. That economic forecasting of the OECD is in process now.

[Mr. Speaker.]

● (1410)

The published report will not be available until December. The article in question may well be based on a draft version of the report but only when the final figures become available will it be possible for us to assess that report and appraise its value. I might say that the Minister of Finance has already indicated to this House his concern that growth prospects for 1977 now look less strong than we would wish. That is a world-wide phenomenon. We would not characterize this prospect as a mini-recession. I wonder whether indeed, the report of the OECD characterized it as a mini-recession. In any event, in the last two weeks certain monetary policy adjustments have been announced by the Bank of Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Order, order.

**Mr. Kaplan:** Other direct employment measures have been introduced.

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Speaker, if I may go to the acting Minister of Finance, I would like the acting Minister of Finance to indicate if it is not true that members of the Finance Department are now in Paris reviewing the OECD documentation behind the report to which we have referred.

**Mr. Kaplan:** I will look into that.

## POSSIBILITY OF EARLY INTRODUCTION OF BUDGET

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may attempt once again to go to the acting Minister of Finance. Noting the statement of the Minister of Finance that he will not introduce a new budget before Christmas, and in view of the fact that Canadian and international publications are now commenting adversely on Canada's present economic conditions and speculate that the Canadian dollar may fall significantly due to these circumstances, would the acting Minister of Finance take up with the Minister of Finance the advisability of bringing in an early budget, certainly before the end of January, at which time hopefully a more confident attitude will develop in respect of our future.

**Mr. Bob Kaplan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the hon. member that we would not hesitate to make any adjustments which appear appropriate bearing in mind both our goals of fighting inflation and increasing employment.

POSSIBILITY MINISTER OF MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION  
WOULD RECOMMEND EARLY INTRODUCTION OF BUDGET

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. I know he does not accept the complacent and insensitive statement of the Minister of Finance of last Monday when he indicated to the leader of the New Democratic Party that he would not bring in a budget. Is the minister now aware of the figures and analysis of the OECD in terms of growth rate, inflation, unemployment and the