

*Tabling of Documents*

industrial benefits and the creation of new jobs in the aerospace industry in Canada?

• (1500)

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, we have always said, and repeat today, that this decision belongs to Air Canada and not to the Government. The company has to take into consideration what will benefit the company. That is why we are waiting for the decision. Once again, I do not want to interfere in Air Canada's decision in any way whatsoever.

BOEING CORPORATION—PRODUCTION OF DASH 8-400

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, de Havilland, which is now owned by Boeing of Seattle, has indicated that it is on the verge of making a decision about whether to proceed with a very important development, the Dash 8-400.

Has the Government taken steps to ensure that the decision to proceed with this aircraft, which is very important for jobs in my riding, will not be tied to whether or not Air Canada buys planes from Boeing?

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, if I remember well, the Hon. Member was against the privatization of de Havilland. I am sure that with the lesson he has learned today he will be in favour of the privatization of Air Canada.

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**CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION**

METROPOLITAN TORONTO—POSSIBLE USE OF FEDERAL LAND FOR HOUSING PURPOSES

**Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for CMHC. The average house in Metro Toronto is now selling for \$200,000 which is well above the means of the average person. Part of the problem is the excess of demand over supply. The fact is that there is some federal land in Metro on which housing could be constructed.

What progress is being made toward using some of that federal land for housing?

**Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, last year in Metro Toronto there was a 57 per cent increase in housing starts, a record for the previous 10 years. There is a problem in Toronto. We are trying to determine whether there are any federal or provincial Crown lands available which might be utilized to respond to this situation. I have previously given undertakings to my friend who has insistently inquired about what progress is being made. I congratulate him for that, and I hope we can respond reasonably soon.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[English]

**CANADA-U.S. SOFTWOOD LUMBER**

TABLING OF AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 67(2) I have the honour to lay upon the table, in both official languages, copies of an amendment to the Softwood Lumber Memorandum of Understanding between Canada and the U.S. signed in December, 1986.

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[Translation]

**PETITIONS**

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

**Mr. Richard Grisé (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the Government's response to 17 petitions numbered as follows: 332-4327, 332-4328, 332-4330, 332-4355 to 332-4360 inclusive, 332-4377, 332-4378, 332-4451, 332-4467 to 332-4469 inclusive, 332-4475 and 332-4486.

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**COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE**

TRANSPORT—PRESENTATION OF FOURTH AND FIFTH REPORTS

**Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley—Hants):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the fourth and fifth reports of the Standing Committee on Transport.

[English]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—PRESENTATION OF TWELFTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the twelfth report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

In the spirit of parliamentary reform, a new budget committee is proposed to examine departmental Estimates. The Public Accounts Committee further recommends that reducing Estimates should not be considered a non-confidence matter. Standing Committees now tend to concentrate on policy questions when considering the Estimates. While the Public Accounts Committee reviews audit findings after the fact, effective management does not depend on audit alone.