

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The right hon. member for Prince Albert.

Mr. Gillies: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. With due respect, may I say I have never risen on a point of order or personal privilege in the House before, but the answer of the minister to this question, which I think is fundamental, legitimate, and the most important question before the country today, was totally non-responsive.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the hon. member will appreciate that that is hardly a point of order. It is a question of debate or argument. The minister appears ready to join in the argument, but perhaps we might go on to the next question.

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AIR TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON NEW ROUTES TO UNITED STATES AND PRECLEARANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, arising out of the matter raised by the hon. member for Vegreville I would like to ask the Minister of Transport to tell the House what new routes the Canadian airlines will have as a result of the agreement with the United States and, second, what alterations are there under the arrangements entered into between Canada and the United States respecting the preclearance procedure?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think that the document that was initialled in Washington between the head of the Canadian delegation and Mr. Styles, representing the government of the United States, is the largest such package that has ever been negotiated not only between Canada and the United States but throughout the world.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): But, Mr. Speaker, there are so many new routes that I do not think you would allow me to enumerate them at this time.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Does the minister not feel that in an hour or so outside the House of Commons he will remember these things that he will not make available to the House of Commons? This is a contemptuous disregard of parliament on his part.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I think that this document is very important for the people of Canada. I tried to table it here and I was not successful. I hope that somebody will decide to inquire into it.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister should know. He is trying to hide something.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I ask him now, will he treat this House of Commons as a responsible body? I ask that the House agree to revert to motions so he can tell the House

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of Commons what he should announce here rather than outside it?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1430)

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York Simcoe.

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HOUSING

GOVERNMENT INTENTION RESPECTING ROLL-BACK OF NHA AND CONVENTIONAL MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES IN VIEW OF LEVEL

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of high mortgage interest rates already creating home buyer resistance with the result that there is a lessening of construction and employment, does the government now intend to order roll-backs of NHA and conventional mortgage rates which are now at 10½ per cent compared with less than 9 per cent a few months ago and a current average rate of 8 per cent in the United States?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, without agreeing with the premise of that question, the answer is no.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, if I may I should like to put a supplementary to the Prime Minister. Is it the government's position that mortgage interest rates of 10 per cent to 10½ per cent are acceptable and necessary in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Greenwood.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

STEPS TO ENSURE BETTER PROGRESS IN CLEANING UP POLLUTION IN GREAT LAKES

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. In light of the fact that the International Joint Commission, in its first annual report pursuant to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, has criticized the Ottawa and Washington governments for lack of adequate and timely support in the first year of operation under the agreement, will the minister say what steps will be taken to ensure more adequate progress in the concerted clean-up drive in the Great Lakes agreed to by both countries last year?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the responsible authorities from Canada and the United States will be meeting early in October to review the report and recommendations of the International Joint Commission.

Mr. Brewin: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to interrupt the hon. member for Greenwood. The hon. member for York-Simcoe rises on a point of order.