

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Boudria:** In the absence of the Minister of Finance, I will direct my question to the Prime Minister. According to the Canadian Press wire service and an internal report of Statistics Canada, the Government has overpaid \$217 million in equalization grants over a five year period because the census data are not entirely up to date. According to the same report, estimates over 10 years would make matters far worse in the absence of a census. Will the Prime Minister tell us what consultation was held with the provinces before cancelling the census? Also, how much money will the provinces lose because of inadequate census data?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I suppose nobody could lose as much money as the previous Government lost and be damned for it by the Auditor General for mismanagement and abuse of public funds.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** What we are trying to do, with a sense of fairness, is to save some of the taxpayers' dollars and to treat the taxpayers' dollars with frugality. I would have thought, notwithstanding some temporary inconvenience, that my hon. friend would be applauding to save taxpayers' dollars, rather than rising on a constant stream of red herrings.

## DEPUTY MINISTER'S VIEWS

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I will direct my supplementary question to the Minister of State for Finance. According to the same report Mr. Jean Fournier, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance, is quoted as saying—

**Mr. Speaker:** With respect, does the Hon. Member want to put his question?

**Mr. Boudria:** Can the Minister inform the House whether those view of her Deputy Minister were the same views expressed by the Minister of Finance when he cancelled the 1986 Census?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, the microphone went off and I did not hear the quote from Mr. Fournier. I apologize to the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sure the Member will send you the quote, and you can read it.

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## FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW AGENCY

ACQUISITION OF NEWFOUNDLAND PAPER MILL—LABOUR  
LEGISLATION REQUIREMENT

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay-Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. On November 23 of this year, under the provisions of FIRA, the Government gave permission for Kruger Inc., a foreign

controlled company, to acquire the Bowater Mill in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. That company has now stated that it will withdraw its offer unless the provincial Government passes legislation which would change the Labour Standards Act retroactively to 1978. Will the Minister tell this House if that change in the Labour Standards Act was agreed to by FIRA? If not, will he tell this House what he is prepared to do to ensure that that company has to abide by the laws that were in place when the FIRA agreement was reached?

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member is aware that it is not customary to discuss ongoing decisions and conversations and, for that matter, even the undertakings with respect to FIRA matters. I am sure the Hon. Member would not want me to break the precedent that has been set for so long.

## POLICY INQUIRY

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay-Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, given the Minister's answer, will he tell this House just how far the Government is prepared to go to attract foreign capital to Canada, and whether the price we will have to pay will be the elimination of child labour laws, minimum wage laws, health and safety laws, and environmental protection laws, all of which have been targeted by the corporate sector? How far is the Government prepared to go?

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Member, I think most Members would agree that we hear much nonsense in this House from time to time, but rarely such utter rubbish as the Member put in his question.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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## AIRPORTS

## LONDON, ONT. AIRPORT CONTROL ZONE

**Mr. Tom Hockin (London West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. One week from today the control zone over the airport at London, Ontario, is scheduled to be reduced from 10 miles to five miles. This is as a result of a Ministry of Transport directive issued last year. According to the base user organizations in London, this reduction raises—

**Mr. Speaker:** With due respect to the Hon. Member, does he have a question, please?

**Mr. Hockin:** About the safety of aircraft. The Minister and his officials met with these groups—

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member leaves me no choice. The Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie.