

Oral Questions

prevent the flow of money to the United States, has the Bank of Canada indicated to the government that there will be a further rise in interest rates here?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Minister of Finance): Is the hon. gentleman speaking for his party when he advocates a higher interest rate?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. In doing so I make no reflection on the Chair, but when ministers of the Crown break the rules of the House I think it is only right they should be reminded of the fact in the same way as anyone else. The Acting Minister of Finance is forever doing it. He is always abusing the rules.

An hon. Member: Take it easy, Donald.

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PUBLIC SERVICE**APPEAL AGAINST DECISION CONDEMNING RED CIRCLING—REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF PRACTICE AND APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION**

Mr. Walter D. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the importance of preserving the merit principle in the public service, would the minister inform the House whether the government has decided to launch an appeal against the excellent decision of Professor Abbot in which he condemned the practice of red circling in the Morency case?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of Treasury Board): Yes, Mr. Speaker. In the interest of maintaining the pre-eminence of the merit principle in the public service an appeal will be made.

Mr. Baker: In view of the basic unfairness of the practice of red circling, will the minister undertake to review this practice immediately and bring appropriate legislation before the House at the earliest possible date?

Mr. Drury: I will undertake to look into this matter and review it to determine whether there is indeed unfairness. At the same time, I believe we should proceed to appeal the finding of a single adjudicator in this case.

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SUPPLY AND SERVICES**ALLEGED OPENING OF TENDERS IN SECRET**

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. Bearing in mind the statement made by the right hon. gentleman in the House four months ago that he would look into the government's practice of opening tenders in secret, and having regard to the statement made by the Minister of Supply and Services on May 23 that he had been studying this irregular practice since December, will the right hon. gentleman tell us whether this questionable practice has now been

[Mr. Ritchie.]

stopped and when he intends to make a statement to the House on the matter?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, as far as I know, none of my officials has been responsible for irregular practices in my department, but if the hon. member will be more specific in his question, I shall answer it. As for the standard practice in the department, as I have said, it is now being reviewed; I intend to announce a new policy in this regard in the very near future.

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NATIONAL CAPITAL**STUDY BY DOUGLAS FULLERTON—REFERRAL TO HOUSE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Hull): Mr. Speaker, from time to time, you would think that we were in other legislative assemblies.

I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

In view of his constant desire to improve the conditions of life for the citizens of the national capital area, on whose behalf I thank him, could the right hon. Prime Minister tell us if he intends to set up shortly a parliamentary committee to again study all questions relating to the National Capital Commission, or will he wait for the Fullerton report on these important matters?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my intention is rather to wait for the Fullerton report, to study it with the cabinet and then, if appropriate, to submit it to a parliamentary committee.

If the hon. member has other representations, I would be happy to hear him because I share his wish to improve conditions in the national capital since I intend, as he does, to go on living here for a long time.

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[English]

TRANSPORT**REQUEST THAT AIR CANADA AND CNR ANNUAL REPORTS BE REFERRED TO STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport and is supplementary to virtually every question which has been asked this afternoon. In light of the strikes that affected the island provinces, higher freight rates, allocation of world air routes and everything else, will the minister please refer the annual reports of Air Canada and Canadian National Railways to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications for study so that we may go into some of these matters?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): As soon as those reports have been checked, Mr. Speaker, according to the law, they will be handed over to the cabinet.