

*Oral Questions*

accounts, thus providing investment opportunity for other Canadians and relieving the Canadian taxpayers of the need to subsidize the bad management currently exhibited by some Crown corporations and agencies?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I point out to the hon. gentleman that some years ago the government did just that with the creation of the Canada Development Corporation, and we included among the CDC's assets the Polysar operation. As the hon. member knows, CDC has since had a public distribution of shares, and depending upon the circumstances of the market and the fortunes of the various investments it would seek to distribute even more of the shares to the general public. I can say that in general terms the principle is one which has been accepted here for some time, and it is one we hope to further.

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**POST OFFICE**

LABELS ON POST BOXES IN TORONTO ASSURING NEXT DAY DELIVERY IN TORONTO AREA—REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL

**Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Postmaster General. Given the fact that thousands of post boxes in Toronto have labels on them indicating that local first class mail posted before 5.30 p.m. will be delivered the next day in Toronto, including Long Branch, East York, Leaside and North Toronto, and given the fact that this is patently false, is the Postmaster General planning to change the labelling of those boxes in Toronto?

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out following the hon. gentleman's question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, that surely does not constitute the assurance or the guarantee that that mail is going to be delivered by that time. It is an indication as to when the mail should be dropped into those particular boxes so that effective delivery can be made.

**Mr. Gillies:** Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as studies have shown that four out of ten times that does not happen, why does the Postmaster General continue to indicate on the boxes that it will happen? It does not happen in four out of ten cases. It should be changed.

**Mr. Blais:** I do not know what studies the hon. gentleman is referring to, but if he wants to communicate with me, I will provide him with studies which prove quite the contrary.

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**FINANCE**

ALLEGED FEDERAL COMMITMENT TO AID URBAN TRANSIT PROJECTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In

[Mr. Clarke.]

view of the fact that in the next decade Canada will become a net importer of oil at higher and higher prices, which will have a serious effect on our foreign exchange situation, will the government reconsider its decision not to implement the promise made by the Prime Minister during the 1974 election campaign that the federal government would pay 100 per cent of the cost of Canadian-made vehicles for urban transit and other things to the extent of \$275 million over five years?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, there have been under discussion within the government some possible options with regard to urban policies in which not only the possibilities for urban transit but also the grade crossing fund, rail line relocation and other questions have been considered from the standpoint of priority of government expenditures. However, I cannot say at this point whether there will be any additional funds made available for urban transportation.

**Mr. Orlikow:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that a number of provincial governments have already instituted programs to share the cost of extending their urban transit systems or to share the cost of meeting the deficit so that the price of fares will not go up, all of which programs help to discourage the increased use of private automobiles and the increased use of petroleum, of which there is a scarcity, will the government be announcing in the near future programs in which it will participate so that municipalities and provincial governments can be encouraged to move toward expanding their urban transit systems.

● (1200)

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** The real question is whether with the limited amount of funds available for federal expenditures of this kind the maximum impact can be attained by a new shared-cost program in the area of urban transportation or whether federal funds might more properly be directed to the kind of programs to which the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands referred, such as the re-insulation program. Obviously, it would be desirable if there were unlimited funds available to attempt to do so but given the absence of that situation it is a question of determining priorities.

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**VETERANS AFFAIRS**

DEER LODGE HOSPITAL—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH MANITOBA FOR TRANSFER

**Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Could he bring us up to date on the state of negotiations between his department and the province of Manitoba with regard to transferring Deer Lodge military hospital to the province of Manitoba.