

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

MAINTENANCE OF AIR CANADA'S BILINGUAL CHARACTER—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Bill C-129 states very clearly in clause 10, and I quote: "That the Official Languages Act applies to Air Canada." That is clear and precise.

The Government should have a policy . . . Will the Government make a commitment to maintain this clause in its entirety and unchanged, without amendments that might undermine its commitment to Air Canada's bilingualism or reduce its scope? Is the Government prepared to maintain that principle? Yes or no?

● (1440)

[English]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is right. The Bill is very clear. I do not know why that would prevent the committee from hearing representations by Air Canada or anyone else. Why is the Hon. Member so opposed to democracy in this country?

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[Translation]

## ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF CANADA

## POSSIBLE RELOCATION

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question to ask the Deputy Prime Minister about moving the Economic Council of Canada.

In a letter that he wrote to me recently, the Prime Minister told me that the Economic Council of Canada, which has been in Vanier for 20 years, would soon move to downtown Ottawa. This move will cost \$750,000 and according to the Prime Minister, it is essential.

The Prime Minister told me in his letter that the move was to enable the Council to work very close to other federal agencies located in the heart of Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, Vanier is a kilometre from here, six or seven minutes if you hurry a little . . . I would like to know from the Prime Minister how we can be closer to the action than we are in Vanier. And can he tell us the real reasons for the move, or is the Government ashamed to be in Vanier?

[English]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, that is a question which would more appropriately be addressed to the

President of the Treasury Board. I will look into it and get back to the Hon. Member as soon as I can.

## REASONS FOR PROPOSED RELOCATION

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, it is the Prime Minister who is responsible for the Economic Council of Canada.

When I spoke about the cost of \$750,000 to move the Economic Council of Canada from Vanier to downtown Ottawa which is the objective—and which is but one kilometre away, or six minutes—I was asking the Deputy Prime Minister what kind of reasoning can be invoked other than the false and untrue ones that have been stated in the letter with respect to it wanting to come closer to MPs, Senators, and House committees. Come on, can it tell us the real reason?

What will the Government do if this thing does not fly? Will it again change its mind? I hope it will. Will it save the money, take the \$750,000 and spend it on other priorities such as housing for battered women or perhaps day care? What is wrong with Vanier? Leave it there, it is all right.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the vigour with which the Hon. Member makes the representation. I said that I will look into it and get back to him.

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## HOUSING

SITUATION IN TORONTO—DEDUCTIBLE MORTGAGE INTEREST  
TAX PROPOSAL

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. The Minister is well aware that in the present severe housing crisis in the Metro Toronto area less than 4 per cent of tenants can afford to buy a house. He is well aware as well that in the past our Party has advocated a system of mortgage interest tax deductibility in order to encourage home ownership.

Will the Minister consider instituting a similar type of program to allow residential housing tax deductibility for first-time home owners, and institute a system either on a national basis or targeted for areas such as Metropolitan Toronto, targeted in the same way that the Minister has targeted other programs such as the northern allowance?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member has expressed concerns before on what is a very difficult question, the question of the cost of housing in Metropolitan Toronto. We are aware of that particular problem.

Again, in this particular instance we appreciate the thought that he has given to proposals for us to consider. In this case as well the focus on the particular option that he has chosen