

*Oral Questions***BANKS AND BANKING****CANADIAN COMMERCIAL BANK COLLAPSE—REPORT OF AUDIT OFFER**

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Finance. I have listened to, and I have read her answers in *Hansard*. She is becoming a master at circumlocution and stonewalling. There is one fact which will do much to clarify the situation. Why did she or the Minister of Finance, or the Prime Minister, refuse the offer of a special audit from Canadian chartered banks, which could have avoided this entire disastrous situation? Why was it refused?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I see that the St. James Club has the same kind of misinformation as the Toronto Club.

Ms. Copps: How about the Albany Club?

Mrs. McDougall: At least the Albany Club lets in women.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mrs. McDougall: I believe some senior bankers stated publicly yesterday that there were some bankers looking at the portfolio. I have never indicated otherwise and have denied nothing.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount): There was not much substance to that answer, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister reacquire some credibility and respect by at least confirming in the House a rumour, which is now commonly held on the street and elsewhere, that she and the Minister of Finance refused to bail it out, probably wanted the special audit, but were overruled by the Prime Minister for purely political purposes? Will she confirm that here for our benefit and reacquire some respect?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, once again we are dealing with things which happen on other streets. We have been standing beside each other. This was a collective Government decision which we all reinforced, and it was reinforced by two provinces and the chartered banks. I do not know how many times I have to say that before the Hon. Member listens to what we are saying here instead of to what is happening out on the streets.

CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**REJECTION OF LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE SERVICE APPLICATION**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Communications. After very extensive hearings, the CRTC turned down the application of CNCP Telecommunications to enter into the long distance telephone business in competition with existing systems. In view of that decision, why did the Minister send a document to Cabinet proposing that he be permitted to spend \$1 million in a propaganda campaign to educate people on the advantages of deregulation?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, this document was submitted to Cabinet within the framework of a general review of the Canadian telecommunications policy and it was not issued the week following the application by the CNCP, but last winter. Indeed, it is within this framework that a federal-provincial conference will be held in mid-November to discuss the issue of telecommunications. This is not a propaganda document, but a document to promote consultation, and the amount put aside for it is largely to be used for research so that those who will have to make decisions, including the provinces, will be well-informed.

[English]

REQUEST THAT COMMISSION NOT BE OVERRULED

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, various groups, including provincial Governments, made representations in opposition to the application of CNCP.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Does the Hon. Member have a supplementary question?

Mr. Orlikow: Can the Minister give us assurances that he will not recommend overruling the decision of the CRTC?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I have not yet received any notice of appeal from the CNCP in this matter.

* * *

IMMIGRATION**CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH REFUGEES DETAINED—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Immigration.

For the last few days in Montreal, refugees have been on a hunger strike at the Ville Saint-Laurent Detention Centre.