

Oral Questions

in my constituency with 80 high school students. They were so upset by this extravagance that they wrote to their member of parliament and complained.

Some hon. Members: Supplementary?

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, I hope that the students in the hon. member's constituency will do the same as students would do in mine, see that the pamphlets are distributed so that there is a proper expenditure of the taxpayers' money.

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AIR TRANSPORT**ASSESSMENT OF LANDING FEE WHEN AIRCRAFT ENGAGE IN SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I was going to ask a supplementary question, but another hon. member asked it. May I put my question to the Minister of Transport? It has to do with the proposed landing fee of \$2.60 for light aircraft landing at Ministry of Transport airports. Will this fee be levied when aircraft are engaged on search and rescue missions or other errands of mercy, and how will it be possible to determine the difference?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the levying of the tax and the manner in which it is levied is being discussed with the Owners and Pilots Association. I am sure that such details and other matters of concern will be looked at.

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ENERGY**TURNING OFF LIGHTS IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS TO CONSERVE ENERGY**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. On national television on Sunday night, April 4, the minister stated, "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem." The presentation showed lights off in all our major cities except Ottawa, which was still ablaze after dark. In light of the government's expensive request on television, in which it asks Canadian citizens to conserve energy, when is the government going to practice what it preaches and turn off lights at night in all government buildings, in Ottawa and right across Canada?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Fairweather: What's the latest excuse?

Mr. Gillespie: —the government has already started to do just that.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Fairweather: Where?

Mr. Hees: Not in the external affairs building.

[Mr. Fairweather.]

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I was asked a question, so I should be allowed to answer. I very much regret the way that particular program was handled. I spoke to the producer of the program and asked him when he took his pictures of the government buildings shown. He told me, at 8.30 p.m. I said, "Why did you take them then?" He said, "We thought we would find the lights on then." Of course he was right, because many offices are cleaned then. If he had taken those pictures around eleven o'clock, he would have found most lights off.

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PUBLIC WORKS**AWARDING OF MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR ALASKA HIGHWAY**

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of Public Works has to do with departmental procedures. Does the minister agree with the way maintenance contract PRO 662901, Alaska highway, B.C., mile 300 to mile 496 was awarded?

Some hon. Members: Order.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with the contract.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member realizes that that specific information should be obtained some other way.

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[Translation]

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM**POSSIBILITY OF REMOVAL OF CEILING ON PAYMENT OF DIVIDENDS**

Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

In view of the restrictions imposed by the Anti-Inflation Act on dividend payments by corporations, and in view of the fact that the payment of dividends to shareholders makes it possible to delay the reaching of the aggregate ceiling beyond which a small enterprise may benefit from a special tax rate if its annual profits before tax are not in excess of \$100,000, can the minister tell the House whether the government intends to raise the aggregate ceiling so that small enterprises do not lose their entitlement to the special tax rate because of the provisions of the Anti-Inflation Act prohibiting the payment to shareholders of the dividends required to stay within the \$500,000 aggregate ceiling?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I received some representations on that issue from the hon. member and others in the House. We are now considering whether there is such a conflict inherent in the provisions of the government policy. I hope I will be able to take a position and give an answer in the near future.