

be struck, which he indicated two weeks ago he would be telling the House about in the near future.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, I am not dealing only with a private organization but with the government of Ontario, and I do not think I will move in any way in that field without the consent of the government of Ontario.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe and then the hon. member for Vegreville.

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[Translation]

### NATIONAL CAPITAL

TASK FORCE STUDY UNDER DOUGLAS FULLERTON—  
PUBLIC HEARINGS—REFERENCE TO STANDING  
COMMITTEE

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

Does the government intend to invite Mr. Douglas Fullerton to hold hearings during the special study he is conducting on the future development of the national capital region?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker. As the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe has stated, the study is being conducted for the government. It is not a commission of inquiry. We would certainly be very happy, if the House so wishes, to discuss the problems of the national capital in a House committee, at the proper time and place. But this study is being done for the government; it is being conducted by Mr. Fullerton himself, and public hearings are not expected to be held.

**Mr. Wagner:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

In view of Mr. Fullerton's refusal to hold public hearings, does the government intend to give a House standing committee, as the right hon. Prime Minister has suggested, the responsibility of inviting interested parties to make recommendations on the national capital?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, Mr. Fullerton has not refused to hold hearings; rather, he has no authority to do so. He has not been appointed under the Inquiries Act or any other such legislation which would give him the power to hold inquiries. He has been hired, on contract, to conduct a study for the government.

As for the second part of the question, Mr. Speaker, I say again that the government will be happy to hear suggestions from anyone aimed at improving the situation of the national capital in any way possible, and if a committee wishes to tackle this problem, we will be happy to take part in it.

### Oral Questions

● (1520)

[English]

### COMMUNICATIONS

BELL CANADA—GOVERNMENT DENIAL OF SERVICE  
CHARGE INCREASES—POSSIBILITY OF REPLACEMENT OF  
PRESIDENT OF CANADIAN TRANSPORT COMMISSION

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the government's decision to deny Bell Canada's application for increased service charges which were previously granted by the Canadian Transport Commission, and in view of the series of recommendations and instructions which have been issued by the government to the president of CTC, which raises the question of confidence in the capacity of the president of the CTC, I ask the Prime Minister whether he is actively considering the replacement of the president of the CTC?

**An hon. Member:** John Turner!

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, of course I cannot agree with the allegations contained in the question. The government exercises the right which is provided to it under legislation adopted by the House, and I do not think that the exercise of that right under the legislation is an expression of contempt for anyone.

BELL CANADA—SUGGESTION THAT RATE INCREASES  
WILL IMPOSE HARDSHIP ON BLIND PERSONS

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that the decision of the government to allow Bell Canada increases will pose a severe hardship on blind persons in this country, may I ask the minister what he proposes to do about this matter and if he has had discussions with Bell Canada to point out to them exactly what the consequences of the rate increases are for blind persons in Canada?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the hon. member speak to his colleague who just said that we have denied Bell Canada the increases.

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### CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE THAT NEW PRESIDENT,  
WILLIAM TERON, WILL DIVEST HIMSELF OF ALL  
FINANCIAL INTERESTS IN REAL ESTATE CORPORATIONS

**Mr. John Harney (Scarborough West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of a letter dated June 18, sent by William Teron Associates and signed by William Teron, to Ottawa-based lobbies advising them of the future availability of 120,000 square feet of prime office space in the proposed Association House in downtown Ottawa, can the minister assure the House that Mr. Teron will divest himself of all his