

### Oral Questions

[English]

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (President of the Treasury Board):** The anxieties to which the hon. member refers are, in fact, only in his mind. He has referred to legislation which was before the previous Parliament, Bill C-12. I can tell him we have reviewed that legislation. We found it inadequate and we intend to introduce in this House a much more appropriate bill in substitution for it, one which will take into account the rather frightening "unfunding" which took place under the previous government with respect to the superannuation accounts held on behalf of the public servants of Canada.

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER NEW BILL WILL PROVIDE FOR INDEXING

**Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Hull):** My question is again directed to the President of the Treasury Board. Could he tell the House if there will be a clause in the new bill which is going to be tabled, in order to assure retired public servants that they will get a pension indexed to the cost of living?

[English]

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (President of the Treasury Board):** I have already indicated that the bill which was brought before the Thirtieth Parliament is now under review. We intend to bring in a more satisfactory bill, at which time the hon. member will see that we have more appropriately provided for the indexing of public service pensions than perhaps he is now anticipating.

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### TRANSPORT

#### CTC APPROACH TO CANAVIA TRANSIT APPLICATION

**Mr. Robin Richardson (Beaches):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Transport. I refer to an article in *The Globe and Mail* in which Mr. John P. T. Gilmore, the president of Canavia Transit Inc., a somewhat mysterious Montreal-based company which refuses to disclose its directors and financial backers, and a company which has filed an application before the Canadian Transport Commission to use the Toronto Island airport for a STOL commuter service, alleges that the hon. gentleman, as Minister of Transport, has given a clear directive—

Some hon. Members: Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member should put his question.

**Mr. Richardson (Beaches):** I should like to ask the minister whether he has given approval to the CTC to proceed with the application of Canavia Transit, whether he has given support to that application and whether the government has taken a decision on the use of Toronto Island for STOL service.

[Mr. Isabelle.]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** As the hon. member knows, I am sure, Canavia is free to make an application. I indicated this in my letter, and the interpretation which Mr. Gilmore has placed upon my letter is inaccurate.

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### ENERGY

#### PROTECTION FOR CONSUMERS IF ENERGY PRICES INCREASED

**Mr. Robert Daudlin (Essex-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Given that it is the reported intent of this government to move immediately and quickly toward world energy prices, and that the entire agricultural sector of Canada will be unduly affected by such abrupt and unconsidered movement; given, further, that producers of foodstuffs, as well as consumers in the country, will be affected and are virtually unable to shield themselves from the impact of such action, may I ask whether the minister has consulted with his colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, to ascertain the impact on food production and food prices of such a move, and whether he has set in motion some mechanism for shielding both agricultural producers and consumers of this country from the kind of action contemplated?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Members of this cabinet, unlike their predecessors, are always in consultation with each other with respect to matters of national concern. I can assure the hon. member that these factors with respect to the implications of price increases are very much in my mind, that there is full discussion with respect to a comprehensive energy policy, and that our approaches to the subject take seriously into account the aspect the hon. member has raised.

**Mr. Daudlin:** I am more than happy to hear that the minister is consulting with his colleague. I wonder whether I might ask his colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, whether he would be prepared to entertain an alternative to allowing the price increases to go ahead and to suggest to the minister of energy that the energy-related cost increases should be exempted, and that the farmers of this country should not be required to pay them either through the fuel going into their tractors or the nitrate fertilizers derived from natural gas, thus protecting not only food producers of this country but consumers as well.

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** I thank the hon. member for his question. I might say it is not the kind of question I had expected to receive off the bat. But I do appreciate his recommendation because it does concern a serious problem affecting the food sector in its totality.

When my hon. friend, the minister of energy, tells the House we are consulting, he means just that; and we expect to continue to consult on a regular basis to bring forth solutions to this very serious problem.