

[Translation]

POST OFFICEINQUIRY AS TO INCREASE IN MAIL RATES TO
OFFSET DECREASE IN VOLUME

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Post Office.

Since the last increase in postal rates has brought about the folding up of several magazines and generally resulted in a decrease in the volume of mail, could the minister indicate whether his department is presently considering the possibility of further increasing postal rates in order to offset the deficit resulting from the reduced volume of mail?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the decrease in volume did not necessarily result from the rates increase, but we are considering the possibility of further increasing postal rates.

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[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

AUTHORITY FOR ISSUANCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICATION, "BI-MONTHLY RESEARCH NOTES"

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Under whose authority was the publication called "Bi-monthly Research Notes, published under the authority of the minister of the environment", issued and distributed across Canada? There is no minister of the environment. Under whose authority was this publication put out?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I will have to make inquiries and report back to the hon. member.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

CANADAIR—MEASURES TO RELIEVE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AND MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte Marie): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour, but in his absence I will put it to the right hon. Prime Minister.

In view of the fact that Canadair of Montreal has revealed its financial difficulties and threatens to lay off 6,000 workers, could the right hon. Prime Minister inform us whether his government intends to take immediate steps likely to alleviate the situation, such as the purchase of CL-215 aircraft.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, my department is making every effort to help Canadair, for example, in the international field, promote the sale of CL-215 aircraft. My department is also trying to secure for the company

Inquiries of the Ministry

sub-contracts from the United States and is also helping in the areas of research and development.

The Minister of Transport is, for his part, engaged in developing a reorganization program which would apply to the Canadian aircraft industry as a whole, in regard to short take-off and landing.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister. Is he doing his best to prevent, by means of temporary contracts or agreements, the dismissal of the 6,000 Canadair employees involved?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, if my hon. friend is aware of the situation of the aircraft industry in Canada, the United States and the rest of the world, he knows that the industry is encountering great difficulties at the present time because of cuts in the defence budgets of several countries, particularly Canada and the United States.

I therefore feel that expecting the company to continue operations at a wartime employment level would be unrealistic.

Mr. Valade: In view of the importance of the matter, Mr. Speaker, I feel the minister should reply to my question. Does the government intend to purchase CL-215 amphibian aircraft, which have already been purchased by other countries to combat forest fires?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, that question is under consideration, but it is well known that it involves real difficulties. Some provinces, among which Quebec, have already got those planes. Were the government of Canada to buy some, the fact that a province is already equipped would raise problems, and it might also happen that when fires would have to be fought in Newfoundland, the planes would be in British Columbia.

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[English]

HOUSING

SUGGESTED USE OF FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR SUBSIDIZED HOUSING TO SUPPORT LOWER INTEREST RATES

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): My question is directed to the minister responsible for housing. I will draw the question while he is returning to his seat. Will the government redirect a large portion of the funds allocated for subsidized housing to support lower interest rates on housing for ownership as suggested to the minister today by the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the large amounts of money available to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation are, of course, capital funds. There would be some difficulty in applying capital funds to what is basically an expenditure program. Nevertheless we are, and have been for some time, examining the proposal. If there is a decision made, I will announce it to the House.