

Oral Questions

Shabami, the Commissioner of State for the Economy, for Industry and for External Commerce of Zaïre.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[English]

CROWN CORPORATIONS

CANADAIR—REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF TASK FORCE REPORT

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It follows a question that I asked the Minister of Supply and Services last week concerning the Canadair matter and the Task Force Report. I had asked the Minister of Supply and Services whether he would make a copy of the Task Force Report available so that the committee could deal with the matter. He indicated that he would not. I asked him if he would not mind thinking about that over the weekend, and in his answer he seemed to say that he did not believe he should think on the weekend since he did not think at all during the week anyway.

Would the Government release that Task Force Report that was referred to in those questions so that, when the matter comes before the committee of the House, as the Prime Minister indicated it would, all the information would be available for the parliamentary examination which even independent observers of this institution are saying should take place with respect to Canadair?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, I did look fully into the question asked by the Hon. Member last Friday as well as the excellent answer given by the Minister of Supply and Services. I should like to confirm to the Hon. Member that the practice concerning Cabinet documents remains unchanged and the answer given last Friday was excellent.

[English]

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT RECONSIDER POSITION

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I know that the Government is fully aware that it has removed from the ambit of the Freedom of Information Act the ability of the special commissioner, whenever he is appointed, or of the courts, to examine the question of the release of Cabinet documents. I am aware of that. That seems to be the substance of the answer. But there is no reason, no law, that prohibits the Government when it wishes to do so, and when it is proper and right that it do so from the point of view of Parliament getting to the truth of the issue, from releasing those documents. I ask the Prime Minister once more whether, in the true spirit of The Freedom of Information Act, through which all the information would be open, the Government would once again reconsider that answer?

• (1440)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, if the Hon. Member casts his mind to the Freedom of Information Act, he will recall there are certain exceptions, exceptions that are practised in all democratic countries. They have to do with documents that might be deleterious to foreign relations, to personal privacy, or to the cabinet system of Government. That is the exception I ask the Hon. Member to reflect upon when he is asking for the tabling and the making public of cabinet documents.

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ENERGY CONSERVATION

DELAY IN ISSUANCE OF CHIP PROGRAM CHEQUES

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the fact that most of the CHIP grant cheques are being delayed inordinately and, because of this, insulation companies are having to lay off literally hundreds, if not a few thousand employees across Canada, what is the Minister prepared to do to make sure that these CHIP grant cheques get out to the applicants so these lay-offs do not have to take place? We are suffering from a situation in the country today with over two million unemployed and, through Government incompetence, we do not need even a few hundred more.

Hon. Herb Gray (President of Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, I already have had a similar inquiry. I would be delighted to look into the reasons for the delay in consultation with the Ministers responsible, to see what might be done to speed up delivery of the cheques.

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CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

FUNDS FOR CANADIAN HOME OWNERSHIP STIMULATION PROGRAM

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Madam Speaker, in the absence of yet another Minister, the Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Finance. It has become apparent that the Canadian Home Ownership Stimulation Program has run out of money in many regions. As a meeting was held this morning in the CMHC offices to discuss this appalling situation, I would like the Minister to inform Canadians whether there will be moneys to cover the applications now being held by CMHC offices across Canada. As well, I would like to know whether there will be moneys to cover the applications that will continue to come in until the end of the program deadline of April 30, 1983, and whether the Minister knows that this housing stimulation program is a first rate way of stimulating the over-all economy?