

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF IVORY COAST

**Madam Speaker:** I wish to draw the attention of the House to the distinguished presence in our gallery of His Excellency Mr. Siméon Aké, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ivory Coast.

[English]

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**Madam Speaker:** I would like to draw the attention of the House to the presence in our gallery of Members of the Cabinet and Legislative Council of the Northwest Territories.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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## THE BUDGET

ISSUANCE OF ADVERTISEMENT BY CANADA MORTGAGE AND  
HOUSING CORPORATION

**Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the minister responsible for housing. Yesterday the minister said that the advertisement containing budget information was, and I quote his exact words:

—not authorized until following a meeting of the cabinet committee on communications, Friday, November 13, at approximately 12.30 p.m.

He went on to say:

After reviewing that ad with suggested changes, authorization then was given for the use of that ad in advertisements the following day, November 14.

That is the end of the quote.

How can the minister stand behind such blatantly inaccurate statements when the advertisement was actually authorized camera-ready for printing, and in the hands of numerous newspapers, before cabinet approval, and how can he say that the cabinet authorized printing of the advertisement for November 14 when, in actual fact, it was ordered and authorized by Vickers and Benson on November 9, three days before the budget, for publication on November 13?

**Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, I have had the opportunity since responding to the questions yesterday afternoon to speak to officials on this matter. I would confirm that the story reported in *The Globe and Mail* today, on page 8, does consist of the facts as I understand them. The facts are correct that, first, no publication of any material affecting housing in the budget was printed until after the budget, that is, November 13.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Cosgrove:** I also confirm that no material pertaining to that advertisement was in the hands of the firm to which the

hon. gentleman has just referred. Indeed, their work for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation was to obtain space, which they did.

I would add, finally, that after the budget was delivered in this House, representatives of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation released an advertisement, which was then taken to the newspapers after the budget was delivered by the Minister of Finance in this House.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

TELEGRAM SENT BY ADVERTISING AGENCY

**Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville):** Madam Speaker, the minister with his misinformed tongue is apparently allowing it to run away with his mouth, as usual.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** Shame!

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Cossitt:** If the jackals will be quiet, I will refer the minister to a telegram sent by Vickers and Benson on the day of the budget, addressed "Urgent to all advertising managers re: CMHC", the wording of which I have here, identifies the advertisement by its actual heading. How does the minister explain the fact that, despite his denial and that of Vickers and Benson, the advertising agency was able to quote from the CMHC advertisement before cabinet approval, which he says was not given until a day later? How does he explain that an official of Vickers and Benson told my office yesterday that they had the CMHC ad material, and I quote the exact words used, "We sent the material out on Wednesday", and Wednesday was the day before the budget? I ask the minister to tell us what was the exact sequence of events.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, the last thing I would do in this House, or in my responsibility as a minister of this government, going on my very brief experience, would be to rely on anything quoted by anyone to that member opposite.

**An hon. Member:** Right on.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Cosgrove:** The member has taken a telegram which referred to space taken in newspapers across the country to assist Canadians and members of this House to explain the government's proposed plan. It referred to it by one word, "Attention", and that is the only information that Vickers and Benson had, one word. That is how it described the ad.

**Mr. Cossitt:** Now you are starting to admit something.

**Mr. Cosgrove:** Now, Madam Speaker, that material was released after the budget. It was sent to newspapers the