

Order Paper Questions

AUDIT OF CMHC

Question No. 1,878—Mr. Lewis:

Did the auditors Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Company, agree with the Office of the Auditor General to undertake a comprehensive audit of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and, if so (a) on what date was the decision taken (b) for what reason was such an audit undertaken and what, if any, were the results?

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State (Finance)): 1. Yes, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. have initiated a comprehensive audit at the request of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

2. This decision was taken on August 28, 1979.

3. Mr. R. Hession, president of CMHC, in consultation with the Auditor General, requested a comprehensive audit of the corporation. The corporation is participating with the office of the Auditor General in a project to develop comprehensive audit methodology for Crown corporations.

4. The audit is under way. Results will be reported to the board of directors of CMHC upon completion.

GOVERNMENT OWNED LAND EAST OF PRESCOTT, ONT.

Question No. 1,939—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Does the government own any land east of Prescott, Ontario, in the area administered by the National Harbours Board and, if so (a) how many acres (b) how many persons own cottages or other buildings within the area?

2. Has the government considered selling some of the land and, if so (a) for what reason (b) what protection will be received in regard to the interest of those presently owning cottages, etc. on the land and will such persons be given first choice to purchase at a reasonable price?

Mr. Robert Bockstael (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): The National Harbours Board advises as follows: 1. Yes, (a) 66.18 acres, in addition to a waterlot area of some 289.64 acres, (b) Twenty-three.

2. (a) It is contemplating the transfer to Parks Canada of a historical site and is studying ways of improving its revenue position with respect to other lands not used for commercial purposes.

(b) Cottage owners would not be affected by the transfer of the historical site. Should the decision be made to sell the lots on which cottages are situated at some future date, existing lessees will be given opportunity to purchase them at a slightly below market value.

JUNE, 1940—CRASH OF GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT

Question No. 1,984—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Did a government aircraft carrying the Honourable Norman McLeod Rogers and others crash on its way from Ottawa to Toronto, somewhere in the area of Newtonville, Ontario, on June 10, 1940, and, if so, what were the names of all persons on board at the time including members of the crew?

2. Were there any survivors of the crash and, if so, what were their names and any other available information concerning them?

3. (a) What inquiries were undertaken into the crash (b) what were the conclusions of such inquiries and where is the information located?

Mrs. Ursula Appolloni (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): 1. Yes. The names of persons aboard were: Hon. Norman McLeod Rogers, F/O J. J. Cotter, AC 1 J. E. Nesbitt, AC 1 O. D. Brownfield.

2. No.

3. (a) The Chief of the Air Staff convened a court of inquiry which heard evidence from June 11 to 15, 1940, and rendered its finding on June 17, 1940.

(b) The court found the causes of the accident in its opinion to be as follows:

An error in judgment on the part of the pilot in that he continued the flight beyond Trenton toward Toronto in the face of increasingly low ceilings and poor visibility.

An error in judgment on the part of the pilot in that when he had lost or was losing visual contact with the ground he attempted a sharp turn towards rising ground without first gaining a safe altitude.

The characteristics of the aircraft which preclude sharp turns without some loss of control.

Contact with the ground whilst in full flight.

The information is on microfilm in Air Force Headquarter's file held by the National Personnel Records Centre, Public Archives.

Question No. 2,024—Mr. Cossitt:

Were all records, prior to May 1941, pertaining to Department of National Defence aircraft and, in particular, records pertaining to the investigation into the death of Norman McLeod Rogers, minister of national defence, in an airplane crash on June 10, 1940, lost or have they disappeared or in some other manner vanished from the Public Archives or the Department of National Defence and, if so, how does the government account for this and will it order an investigation?

Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): In so far as the Department of Communications is concerned: no. These records exist and are under the control of the Public Archives of Canada.

In so far as the Department of National Defence is concerned: no. See reply to question No. 1,984 answered this day.

NORMAN MCLEOD ROGERS—COURT OF INQUIRY

Question No. 2,026—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Do the papers of the late Right Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King state in part with reference to the death in an air crash in 1940 of Norman McLeod Rogers, minister of national defence: "A court of inquiry into the cause of the accident is being held" and, if so (a) to what specific inquiry does this refer (b) in what location and on what date was the inquiry held (c) what were the names of all persons involved in the inquiry or who appeared before the inquiry?

2. Are the papers of the late Right Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King in the Public Archives and specifically does the reference to Mr. Norman McLeod Rogers bear the number MG 26 J4 Vol328?

Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Departments of Communications and National Defence as follows: