

Oral Questions

Mr. Tobin: Tory developers.

Mr. Kaplan: Since when has the Government of Canada departed from the principle of paying fair market value for land that it takes from property owners?

An hon. member: Since Elmer took over.

Mr. Kaplan: The minister for privatization has said in the Toronto media that they did not pay fair market value. He says, "I am not arguing the figure. We paid a premium to get these three buildings off the south side." Why would the government pay a premium instead of fair market value when it has an obvious and full power of expropriation to take the land and not be bullied by developers into giving them premiums like this.

An hon. member: Tory developers.

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): I want to thank my colleague opposite for his usual penetrating look at the obvious. I never said that the city council endorsed it. I said that Mayor Eggleton was in favour of it.

In terms of abandoning the principles of fair market value, we have not abandoned those principles.

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): How can the minister say that they followed fair market value principles when his colleague says they paid a premium? Real estate appraisers who were paid for by the federal taxpayers and hired by the Government of Canada found those figures, to which my colleague referred, that show that instead of paying fair market value, the government has paid \$36.4 million more than fair market value.

Some hon. members: Shame.

Mr. Kaplan: This is the government's own hired appraiser.

An hon. member: Resign.

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): I think my colleague's appraisals and his estimates for fair market value have the same relation to reality as Mr. MacEachen's projections for budgets. I think they are very inaccurate.

If the member would look at the present market value for real estate in Toronto, and if he would do a little research for a change, he would find that his figures and the figures of his colleague are in accordance with

general Liberal economic and fiscal projections, terribly inflated and not very substantive.

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PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. It relates to the two year old, three volume commissioned survey on West Block asbestos leaked yesterday, which has been hidden in the bowels of his department since December 1988.

The minister and the government is doing a lot of bragging lately about their green plan for the Canadian environment. The principles of the green plan, with all its talk about public information and consultation, ought also to apply to Parliament, MPs and our staff.

To have kept this report secret from the Speaker, from the Board of Internal Economy, from West Block MPs and from parliamentary employees for two years while spokespersons denied any danger was scandalous and unacceptable.

When was the minister made aware of the report and what did he do about it? In view of the fact—

Some hon. members: Order.

Mr. Kristiansen: —that yesterday the minister said he would check and report—

Mr. Speaker: There is a question. I am sure the minister would like to deal with it.

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I know that you share my concern at the complete lack of factual information that has just been delivered to the House.

As you and I have discussed today, the administrators of the House of Commons were made aware of this particular report.

Mr. Kristiansen: When? When?

Mr. MacKay: Shortly after it was completed, I say to my colleague from British Columbia.

If my colleague opposite is so concerned about it, as I indicated to my colleague from Cape Breton—East Richmond yesterday, I am quite prepared with the consent of the Board of Internal Economy to let him see the report or table it in the House. There is no mystery about it.