

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): As the hon. member knows, the best way to find out is by shooting drills into the ground, and that is what the companies are doing.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Revenue. What consideration is being given toward expediting the government's foreign ownership policy, having in mind the fact fears are being expressed, now that Howard Hughes is located in Vancouver, that Premier Bennett may sell him the rest of British Columbia?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Spadina.

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URBAN AFFAIRS

PROPOSED TORONTO METRO CENTRE—REQUEST FOR
TABLING OF LETTERS OF INTENT AND AGREEMENTS
PRIOR TO ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD HEARINGS

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. It concerns the metro centre proposed to be built over the rail yards in downtown Toronto. Does the minister intend to table the letters of intent, agreements and proposed arrangements made between Canadian National Railways, Canadian Pacific Railway, Toronto Terminal Railways Limited, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and other parties before the Ontario Municipal Board hearings in April, or will he be making a statement in the House about the whole proposition?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I question very much whether I can do either in view of the fact this is essentially a private development in the sense of any direct relationship with the federal government per se. Canadian National Railways are one of the participants in the metro centre, and to the extent that they are, I have indicated my support for CNR's participation. Documents relating to that, such as they are and there are not very many—they were just a simple conveyance of information—I will be glad to table. The balance would have to come from other sources.

Mr. Ryan: With respect to the CBC and the proposed exchange of lands and leasing arrangements, would the minister either take it upon himself or in association with the Secretary of State endeavour to get some information that could be put before the House prior to this hearing?

Mr. Jamieson: I will be glad to convey the request to the Secretary of State.

[Mr. Woolliams.]

PROPOSED TORONTO METRO CENTRE—REQUEST FOR
STATEMENT ON FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, in view of the tremendous importance of this vast development, which affects transportation in the future and many other aspects, will the minister consider making a statement on motions as to the federal concern in this whole project?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I will be glad to consider that. I think the difficulty arises from the fact that as of the moment we are not entirely sure exactly what constitutes the whole project in view of the fact there are a number of outside interests involved.

SUGGESTED RETENTION OF TORONTO UNION STATION

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, in view of the many representations with regard to the proposed demolition of the Union Station which forms part of the complex, is the minister persuaded that it should not be demolished but should be retained?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I am not competent to pass judgment on that question, Mr. Speaker.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

RENT INCREASES FOR MARRIED QUARTERS—ACTION ON
COMPLAINTS

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence who I understand is away for some time. I have tried to give notice to whoever is the Acting Minister of National Defence. It concerns an important matter having to do with the recent announcement of rent increases and rent changes with regard to personnel married quarters both on and off base. Can the acting minister report whether there have been a number of complaints received, particularly from places like Chatham, New Brunswick and Summerside, Prince Edward Island, where service personnel are greatly agitated by this recent decision. If so, what action is being contemplated?

[Translation]

Mr. J.-R. Comtois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I would like to reply to the hon. member for Egmont.

[English]

The weighted national average system of setting charges for married quarters will be discontinued. On April 1 married quarters charges will be established on the basis of CMHC appraised monthly rental by location plus the appropriate charge for utilities provided. CMHC appraisals are based on the equivalent civilian market rental rates in the local area. Therefore it follows that charges for married quarters will differ at each location. This means effectively that charges for approximately 8,200 married quarters—