

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I explained my position on this matter in my last budget. I may remind the Hon. Member that funds thus collected will be used to finance energy self-sufficiency in Canada and Canadianization of the oil industry, an objective I am sure the Hon. Member strongly supports. This tax will therefore be used to expand Canadianization of the oil industry and also to ensure Canada's energy self-sufficiency.

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PUBLIC WORKS**REASONS FOR GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTING OFFICE BUILDING IN HULL, P.Q.**

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. Yesterday, like so many other people, I noticed the Government promised to build a fifty million-dollar office building in Hull in order to relocate a number of public servants. Since the Government already has more than 47,000 square meters of office space in the City of Hull, I wish the Minister would give the real reason why his Department or the Government is pursuing this plan, although the federal Government already has enough office space.

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows perfectly well that in a Department like mine, space requirements cannot be met instantaneously. We have to make projections and that is what we have done. The Hon. Member may be interested to know that Bell Canada now wants the space where the Department of Finance and Treasury Board are located and will continue to be, but only for a few months, for its own employees. This means we must look elsewhere. An other example is that of the temporary military facilities at the base in Rockcliffe, which will have to be moved elsewhere in the National Capital Region. In any case, we have made projections, which I find eminently reasonable, that indicate there will be a space requirement, and we want to maintain, more or less, the one to three ratio that was accepted several years ago, and that is why we want to build another building on the Hull side.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COSTS COMPARED WITH PRIVATE SECTOR COSTS

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Since the people concerned, those who invest in construction of office buildings, are very worried about competition from the Government, can the Minister give the House the assurance that the rates the Government will be paying will not be more than what the private sector is offering to pay at this time? The Minister knows perfectly well that in Montreal, with Campeau or in Hull, with Teron, good friends

of the Government . . . Could the Minister give the House the assurance that the Government will be getting a price that will at least be similar to, if not less than, the going rates in the private sector?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I would rather not endorse the Hon. Member's mathematics, but I can inform him that tenders were submitted in the summer of 1982, that they were analyzed, and that those selected were in line with the usual tenders and costs for this kind of building.

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[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Has the Minister taken a decision on the implementation of any of the recommendations of the Federal-Provincial Task Force on Compensation for Victims of Crime? Will he be proposing statutory changes to deal more justly and humanely with victims of crime in criminal procedures before our courts?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the brief answer is yes, but may I be permitted to add that this report on victims of crime, the so-called Sinclair report, is a very well written one which I hope will be widely studied by Hon. Members of the House and by the public. There are many kinds of steps we must take to ensure that our law properly reflects the concerns of victims and concern for other interests. I am pleased to assure the Hon. Member and the House that the Government will be moving in this direction legislatively, and that we will also be continuing discussions with the Provinces to try to bring about fuller concern for the plight of victims in our society.

Mr. Howie: I thank the Minister for his answer.

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, the Minister knows that there are 79 recommendations. Will he tell the House whether the nature of his amendments or changes will be extensive in terms of number or substance?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, of those 79 recommendations, my recollection is that only something like ten are directed to the federal Government. We will be moving on most of those recommendations, and some of the others require some discussion with the Provinces. Most of the recommendations, as I recall, are directed primarily to the Provinces.