

*Oral Questions*

Due to the fact that the 18 member International Energy Agency has agreed to the establishment of minimum international floor prices for energy and has agreed that this decision should be made by July 1, can the minister tell the House what position Canada is putting forward with respect to the floor price to protect our investment in energy and domestic fuel?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, at 3.30 this afternoon we have a meeting of the National Resources Committee specifically to discuss our adherence to the IEA. I hope the hon. member could put that question to me and my officials who will be present so that we can discuss it more fully.

**Mr. Gillies:** A supplementary. Will the minister give an assurance to the House and the people of Canada that before an agreement is made on the floor price it will be discussed in the House of Commons?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** We can start discussing it this afternoon.

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#### AIRPORTS

##### PICKERING—POSSIBILITY OF EXPROPRIATING TOWN OF STOUFFVILLE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** My question is to the Minister of Transport. In view of the Prime Minister's statement Friday that the Pickering Airport development will disrupt the lives of only some 2,000 people at Pickering, and in view of the fact that the town of Stouffville, having a population of some 5,000 was found by the airport inquiry commission to be within the undesirable noise disturbance area for the new airport, would the minister indicate if the government now intends to expropriate the town of Stouffville with its 5,000 people as recommended by the airport inquiry commission or has the Prime Minister just chosen to include these residents in his "nobody" class for the purpose of his Toronto speech?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I think all questions relating to expropriation should be addressed to the Minister of Public Works who has that responsibility.

**Mr. Stevens:** Then, if I may I would put that question to the Minister of Public Works. I hope he was listening.

**Mr. Drury:** No.

**Mr. Stevens:** To the Minister of Public Works. In view of the Prime Minister's statement in Toronto that only 2,000 people would be affected by the development of Pickering Airport while Stouffville, an area covered by the noise area according to the Airport Inquiry Commission has 5,000 people, would the minister indicate if it is the government's intention to expropriate the town of Stouffville as recommended in the Airport Inquiry Commission report?

[Mr. Gillies.]

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works):** No, Mr. Speaker, there is no present intention to expropriate the town. An offer has been made for those who want to leave to regard the government as purchaser of last resort, but there is no intention to expropriate.

##### PICKERING—POSSIBILITY OF DELAYING CONSTRUCTION IN VIEW OF DECLINE IN AIRLINE GROWTH FORECASTS

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** A supplementary question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the general decline in Canadian airline growth forecasts, with Air Canada now setting its growth projection at only 2 per cent for this year compared to 8 per cent, the figure advanced at the beginning of the year, would the minister indicate if consideration is being given to delaying construction of the Pickering airport for at least a year so that these declining growth patterns may be taken into account rather than running the possibility of building an airport with no one to use it?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member knows that the economic situation which affected Air Canada affected all airlines in the world, particularly North American airlines, one aspect of which was the increase in the price of fuel. I do not know what the situation will be next year. I think we have taken all precautions because we are only building one runway and it will be ready in a few years. In the meantime, we will be in a position to judge if we should go ahead or stop.

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#### HOUSING

##### DROP IN NUMBER OF STARTS—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO INCREASE

**Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview):** Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the drastic drop in housing starts for March to 138,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis, compared to the minister's annual target of 210,000 starts, is he going to adjust his annual target of 210,000 starts or what steps does he intend to take to increase the starts?

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member obviously shares my concern about the drop in starts over last year. I do not intend to lower my target. I intend to take those initiatives that are necessary to meet the targets.

##### SUGGESTED LOWERING OF MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES TO STIMULATE HOUSE BUILDING

**Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview):** A supplementary question. In view of a recent survey of economists by the *Financial Post* who almost unanimously stated that the most important single thing necessary to stimulate housing is to lower interest rates on mortgages, may I ask the minister if he agrees with this finding and if he will recommend lower interest rates on mortgages to the Minister of Finance?