

in a positive way to try to help them during these difficult times.

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### KEMANO PROJECT

**Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice and it relates to the growing scandal surrounding the controversial Kemano water diversion project in northern B.C.

We have learned by way of a letter from officials in the minister's department that the department has issued a gag order on former and current employees of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. It possibly prohibits them from appearing before the B.C. Utilities Commission inquiry into the Kemano project.

My question for the Minister of Justice is this: What is the government hiding? Why will he not allow these employees to appear before that commission and give full testimony and evidence on this project? Will the minister lift that gag order?

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans I did not receive notice of the hon. member's question.

**Mr. Gardiner:** My question was for the Minister of Justice.

**Mr. Valcourt:** I can assure him of one thing. If there is a public inquiry taking place it has powers to order the production of witnesses. I am sure the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has issued no gag order prohibiting people from testifying before any public organizations in B.C.

All I can say is that this is a serious allegation by the hon. member. It will be looked into and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans will get back to him.

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• (1500)

### HOUSING

**Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for housing.

### Oral Questions

The Colchester Rural Housing and Repair Society is very anxiously awaiting release of CMHC funding to continue its important work for the upcoming year. Will the funding be available and if so, when can it expect it?

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, I appreciate the member's interest in this.

Agencies such as the one he inquired about will be receiving word soon from Canada Mortgage and Housing about their eligibility for funding. In this specific case, I can give him positive news. There will be funding available which will be something in excess of \$100,000.

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### AIRLINE INDUSTRY

**Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and concerns that internal Transport Canada memo of which the minister has been given a copy.

It reveals the overtime pay cuts for air traffic controllers at Pearson International Airport at Toronto. It shows that safety is being compromised in the name of fiscal restraint because cuts mean delays in the busy season and tie-ups for passengers. Cuts mean staff reductions at radar stations and newly constructed terminal control units. Cuts mean that morale has hit a new low. Despite the minister's assurances, safety is being compromised.

Why is this minister, and every minister who I have questioned on this same subject before him, placing fiscal restraint ahead of safety?

**Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I am surprised to hear the hon. member mention that employee morale is low because of overtime cuts. What we have heard in the past is that people do not like to be forced into overtime.

I can assure the hon. member again that cuts in the operating budget of the Minister of Transport will not affect safety in spite of all his fear-mongering. There has been an inquiry on that. It has been declared that the system is safe.