

*Oral Questions*

Minister is proceeding in that way at a time of high unemployment, I suggest that the Hon. Member should get together with the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap who was somewhat emotional about high unemployment. I think the Hon. Member should realize that high unemployment is a problem everywhere.

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**AIRPORTS****MIRABEL—SALE OF EXPROPRIATED LAND**

**Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. Further to questions put to him earlier this week, may I ask the Minister if he has had an opportunity to have discussions with his legal advisers and, possibly, the Minister of Communications, in order to try to justify breaking the law by selling land at Mirabel.

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, I wish the Hon. Member had used the spare time he has had since the last question, to check the law. I have written a letter to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition based on the legal advice of the legal officers in my Department.

I will say to the Hon. Member that the properties in question were expropriated pursuant to the former Expropriation Act, in which there was no requirement to offer expropriated land to the former owners in the event of a resale by the Crown.

**Mr. Clark:** When was it changed?

**Mr. LeBlanc:** Perhaps if the Right Hon. Member stopped interrupting and listened, he might learn something.

**Mr. Clark:** Tell the whole truth.

**Mr. LeBlanc:** Section 24 of the Act was similar in nature to Section 19 of the present Act. It provided that where no compensation money had been paid and the land was abandoned by the Crown, it be vested in the person from whom it had been taken.

In the case of the six properties that we are talking about, the fact is that full compensation had been paid to the expropriated parties and the Crown has not abandoned the land.

I hope the Right Hon. Member bothers to read the excellent letter I will be sending him right away.

**Mr. Fennell:** Madam Speaker, the Minister is referring to a previous Act. There is one rule for Ontario and one rule for the Province of Quebec, and the people of Mirabel are being ill-treated.

**REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION**

**Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario):** Madam Speaker, I would point out to the Minister that I am talking about Section 19 of the present Act, not Section 18, or Section 24 of the previous Act. I would like the Minister to come clean and provide for a complete review and investigation of this matter. He will find out that he has broken the law in selling these 180 properties.

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, I hope the Hon. Member will do what I have done, which is to examine this matter—the legal position should be examined—and then he could pose questions accordingly.

If I have broken the law, obviously I will not hesitate to take the position that I should. The legal advisers in my Department have very carefully drafted an answer for the Right Hon. Member, and this should be part of the record.

**QUERY RESPECTING OFFER TO ORIGINAL OWNERS**

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question. May I return to a question the Minister has not yet answered, at least in the House. Did the Government of Canada offer the first chance to purchase those six Mirabel lands, to the original owners?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, the decision has been made—

**Mr. Nielsen:** Answer yes or no.

**Mr. LeBlanc:** —that the houses and the land would be offered to those who had become the tenants. If the Hon. Member's position were followed logically, it would simply mean that we would go through all the pains of a second expropriation. If that is what he advocates, he had better say so publicly.

**Mr. Clark:** What I advocate, Madam Speaker, is that the Government of Canada follow the law. It has broken the law on tax refunds; it has broken the law on family allowances; it has broken the law on the Standards Council appointment, and it has broken the law with respect to the expropriation at Mirabel. This is a Jesse James Government that has no respect for the law of Canada.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**TREATMENT OF ORIGINAL OWNERS AT MIRABEL AND PICKERING**

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, the Minister knows that the expropriations at Pickering and Mirabel occurred under the old Act.

**Mr. Fox:** Not true.

**Mr. Clark:** The Minister also knows that the return of land at Pickering involved a first offer to the original owners. The