

[Translation]

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

In view of this answer, will the minister, after having examined the report of the interview, inform the House as to whether the C.I.A. operates with the knowledge of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or on a parallel basis without the RCMP being aware of its activities?

[English]

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, neither the CIA nor any other foreign police agency operates in Canada without the knowledge of the RCMP. From time to time foreign police agencies continue cases in Canada, but they do so with the consent of the RCMP and there is always an RCMP officer present as they carry out their work in Canada.

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AIR TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FROM MARITIMES CONCERNING SERVICE TO THEIR AREA

Mr. Leonard C. Jones (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. With respect to the public meetings held in the Atlantic region by the Air Transport Commission earlier this year—a matter which was already brought up during the question period today—as a result of recommendations made and arising therefrom, will the minister arrange a meeting with the Atlantic provinces' members of parliament regarding air services in the Atlantic region and the roles of Air Canada, Canadian Pacific Airlines and Eastern Provincial Airlines?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry but I think I have a permanent problem; I did not hear the hon. member. He spoke before I used the earpiece. May I ask him please to repeat his question with your permission?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member was asking whether the minister could arrange a meeting with the Atlantic provinces' members about air service for the Atlantic provinces.

Mr. Jones: Would the minister like me to repeat my question? My question is with respect to the public meetings in the Atlantic region by the Air Transport Commission earlier this year. As the result of recommendations arising therefrom, would the minister be prepared to arrange a meeting with Atlantic provinces members of parliament with respect to air service in the Atlantic region and the roles of Air Canada, CP Air and Eastern Provincial Airlines?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I will take this question as notice to see whether this is really the best way to proceed in order to give the best service to the Atlantic provinces.

Oral Questions

HOUSING

SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF LUMBER BANK— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the current depression in lumber prices, will the minister give consideration to setting up lumber banks along the lines of land banks to provide a flow of low cost lumber for housing in the future and at the same time to provide relief and employment in the depressed regions of the country?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is a very imaginative suggestion which I should like to take under consideration. Obviously, it poses some knotty problems which we will have to work out.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

REDUCTION IN HOUSING STARTS—GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO INCREASE

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. The minister has stated that he has been planning for 1975. Now that a University of Toronto affiliated institute has substantially confirmed the Conference Board's earlier forecast that housing starts will be down 35 per cent, or 96,000 units next year compared with last year, would the minister indicate what new steps, if any, his department intends to take to avert this slump?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Certainly I treat the reports of the Conference Board and other such reputable bodies with great respect. That would be the case if they did not have an alert and energetic government. I will be introducing and announcing legislation with reference to new steps to the House at the appropriate time, and I can assure the hon. member they will be steps which I think will be appropriate to rectify what would be an unacceptable situation.

Mr. Stevens: Again I have a question for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. I take it from his comments that he is challenging the forecast and the predictions made by these two reputable bodies. If so, would the minister kindly indicate to what extent he believes housing starts will be down in the first quarter of 1975 compared with the first quarter of 1974?

Mr. Danson: I am not challenging those figures. Those are projections by reputable bodies, as I said before. But it is my job to prove them wrong, if I can.