

## Oral Questions

## TRANSPORT

INVITATION TO AIR CANADA AND CANADIAN NATIONAL  
RAILWAYS TO SUBSCRIBE FOR SHARES IN NEW BANK—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware that Boyd, Stott and McDonald Limited of Montreal is proposing to incorporate a new bank to be known as the National Commercial Bank of Canada, that an application for such incorporation has been made to the other place and, more specifically, is the minister aware that shareholders of the Boyd firm who have been invited to subscribe for shares in the new bank include directly or indirectly Air Canada and the CNR?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the details. I will take the question as notice and give an answer tomorrow.

SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONS TO AIR CANADA AND CANADIAN  
NATIONAL RAILWAYS NOT TO INVEST IN NON-RELATED  
VENTURES

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Bearing in mind we almost go into the travel agency business without, presumably, government approval, will the minister indicate if he has given instructions to the management of such Crown corporations as Air Canada or CNR that in future they should not make further investments in new non-related ventures without government approval?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, surely I cannot give instructions to Air Canada, or any other Crown corporation, on things which they are authorized by law to do.

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## FINANCE

REASON FOR DELAY OF BILL C-7 CONCERNING  
INCORPORATION OF BANKS

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. In view of this pending bank incorporation and the move by the British Columbia provincial government to set up its own financial institution to be known as the B.C. Savings and Trust Corporation, will the minister indicate why Bill C-7, a bill providing for speedier incorporation of banks and the possible provincial participation in the share ownership of banks, has been left in limbo for so long in this parliament after having similarly been left in limbo in the last parliament, bearing in mind this bill received first reading in this parliament eight months ago and there has been no further action on it?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I suppose the issue is primarily a question of House time. I will consult with the leader of the House.

## PUBLIC BUILDINGS

SUGGESTION LIGHTS BE TURNED OFF TO CONSERVE  
ENERGY—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. It is further to a question asked earlier with regard to energy conservation. There were recent advertisements in the press with regard to the Department of Public Works turning out lights in many buildings in Canada. We know that is not true, even in Ottawa. Has the minister taken steps to ensure that the lights in all public buildings in Canada are turned off after hours in order that the federal government will better conserve energy?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I think I explained some considerable time ago that in the interests of economy and capital investment, a number of buildings which we occupy have master controls, but not individual controls. The result is that all the lights have to be on or all the lights have to be off. We are currently modifying this in order to have individual controls.

**Mr. Ellis:** When will the minister make a statement to the House on the progress being made on this work?

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, such a statement can be prepared at any time. Perhaps the most appropriate occasion would be before the committee on the estimates.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ALLEGATION CIDA WITHHELD INFORMATION ON LOAN TO  
CUBA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Since Mr. Gérin-Lajoie confirmed the fact that he wanted all financial details of the CIDA loan to Cuba to be suppressed and not made public in the press release, does the minister consider this attitude to be consistent with his avowed beliefs in open government and how many other examples are there where CIDA has deliberately withheld potentially embarrassing information?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. member for raising the question of Cuban financial assistance because there has been a good deal of misinformation floating around, either accidentally or otherwise. The facts are that in February I made a public announcement indicating the extent of financial assistance to Cuba. In February 1975, in a press release, I indicated the amount of the loan and the amount of the grant component. That is the only assistance available to Cuba that has been approved or that will be put into effect. Any other suggestions with regard to fictional or real documents refer to speculation and do not refer in any way to actual decisions or actual assistance.

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