

*Oral Questions***HOUSE OF COMMONS**

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MINISTER OF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT, ST. LUCIA

Mr. Speaker: I wish to bring to the attention of Members the presence in the gallery of the Honourable Stevenson King, Minister of Community Development, St. Lucia.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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AIRPORTS

PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT—TERMINAL 3 PROJECT—
REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF DOCUMENTS

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. It concerns Terminal 3 at Pearson International Airport. Yesterday in a briefing by the Minister's officials in Toronto, one key element was left unsettled. Officials indicated that the bidders expected to be permitted some financial comfort from the Government. Two of the bidders deny this. Documentation was furnished to the bidders when they were preparing their proposals and officials did not make that documentation public.

If the Minister wants to support the argument that financial comfort was available, why will he not make these documents public so that Canadians can see exactly what the developers were told about the arrangements?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Toronto the committee in charge of this project gave a full explanation which I am told satisfied everyone who was there except the Hon. Member, who was quoted in the paper as saying: "We continue to be suspicious about the whole affair".

It is impossible to quiet the suspicions of the Liberal Party about anything. They have no policy, no program, no principles, and no decency. All they try to do is spread suspicion about everything. This is one project where even their best efforts will not get anybody suspicious about anything.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, the officials would not make public the documents which they claim indicate that financial comfort was available. Two of the people who got the documents deny that they contain that assurance about financial comfort. Why will the Minister not settle it by making them public?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. gentleman wants to tell us who it was in these two development companies, to whom they spoke, and so on. The officials have stated the fact that all proposals

called for persons interested to disclose their financial plan. They were all invited to do that.

As far as the documents are concerned, once the ground lease is signed with the winning developer whose bid was found by the committee and Treasury Board to be significantly superior to all others financially in both net present value and rate of return to Transport Canada, and after all conditions precedent are met, I see no reason why these documents should not be made available to the Standing Committee on Transport or other responsible authority.

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[*Translation*]

TELEFILM CANADA

QUERY WHETHER MINISTER HAS CONFIDENCE IN MR. JEAN
SIROIS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Hon. Minister for Communications.

Yesterday she indicated that Mr. Jean Sirois, chairman of the board at Telefilm Canada, had the confidence of the industry. Today we find that Mr. John Ross, a major spokesman for the industry, has asked for Mr. Sirois's resignation.

My question is simple: Does the Hon. Minister still have confidence in Mr. Jean Sirois?

[*English*]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I referred to a letter that I had received from the President of the Canadian Film and Television Association. I quoted from it and will do so again. He wrote to me saying: "We share your distress over recent attempts to make political mileage out of, what for us, was old news". He went on: "We have been working with Jean Sirois in trying to get everything ready for a new Executive Director". I have quoted from this letter and will be very pleased to table it at three o'clock.

ALLEGATIONS MADE BY FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I want to know whether the Minister still has confidence in Jean Sirois. Has the Minister read the letter that was referred to by the Leader of the Opposition? It is a letter from Mr. Pearson in which he says there is strident aggressive intervention on the part of Mr. Sirois, and he makes allegations that the expense accounts would not bear public scrutiny. He said that Mr. Sirois criticized some of the staff for being "rouge". These are not our allegations, but the allegations in the letter.

What will the Minister do about this mess? Does she still have confidence in Mr. Jean Sirois? Is she prepared to refer this to a committee of inquiry to get to the bottom of it?