

Oral Questions

something can be done at least to ease what appears to be an inequity.

REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF TAKEOVER OFFER

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister move to inform Peat Marwick that the sale must not be consummated until such time as a review has been undertaken to determine whether (a), on the one hand, Lapp Industries is not simply moving to purchase its competition in order to put it out of business, and (b), to determine whether it is acting in the best interest of the community and the employees of that business by not accepting their \$1.3 million offer over the \$1.25 million offer of Lapp Industries?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will be pleased to learn that I have already asked my officials to check into this matter to see what stage it is at and what might be done to relieve the situation as he described it to me earlier.

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BANKS AND BANKING

CANADIAN COMMERCIAL BANK—PLIGHT OF SHAREHOLDERS

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. It concerns the Canadian Commercial Bank. People who bought preferred shares in the bank during the week the bail-out was being negotiated have seen the value of their shares plummet. However, when they bought, there was no indication that the bank was in any difficulty at all. Will the Minister tell the House why there was not full and timely disclosure of the bank's financial situation, as is required under Ontario law for shares trading in Ontario?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member is aware that there is a possibility of some legal action being taken on that matter, so I do not think it would be appropriate for me to comment on it. I also remind her that there will be a committee of this House looking into the CCB matter. If she has questions, that is probably the most appropriate place to ask them.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR FULL DISCLOSURE

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, if the Montreal, Toronto, or Alberta Stock Exchanges did know what was going on between March 14 and 25, they did not say. There were 8,500 preferred shares traded while the bank's fate was being decided. The Government's silence gives an appearance of acquiescence in the bank's failure to present its financial situation accurately. Will the Minister tell the House whether he sees any responsibility on the part of the Government, through the Inspector General, to ensure in general that there is full and timely disclosure?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I believe that the rules of the stock exchanges and of the securities commissions under the jurisdiction of the provinces do require a full and timely disclosure. I am sure that the bank has met those. If that has not been the case, we will be able to find that out during the course of the committee hearings when the officers of the bank are in attendance.

REQUEST THAT COMMITTEE RECEIVE INVESTIGATION RESULTS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. It is on the same matter. Now that the Canadian Commercial Bank collapse has been referred to the House of Commons' finance committee, will the Department of Finance, or any of the agencies of the Government, be submitting the results of any investigation by the four organizations, public and private, which examined the bank between December and March and found no sign that the Canadian Commercial Bank would collapse very quickly?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kennett, the Inspector General of Banks, will be appearing before that committee and will be able to provide all the answers to the specific questions of the Hon. Member.

SALE OF SHARES BY VICE-PRESIDENT

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I had hoped the Minister would be shocked by the fact that three of Canada's leading auditing and investment firms, and the Inspector General of Banks, failed to uncover the problems of the Canadian Commercial Bank at a date so close to its collapse. Can the Minister tell the House whether the Government is investigating the activities of one insider who knew something could be wrong? Specifically, is the Government investigating the sale by CCB vice-president Scott McCreath, who sold 2,000 preferred shares in that company in early February for over \$20 a share, while the same shares are now trading at less than \$5? What action will be taken following the result of any such investigation?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the whole question of insider trading is primarily the responsibility of the provincial Governments which have jurisdiction over the stock exchanges and the issue of securities. I will bring that matter to the attention of my colleague, the Minister of State for Finance. I am sure that she will look into it diligently, and get back to the Hon. Member.

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CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

TRANSFER OF EDMONTON BASE COMMANDER

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. The Minister will know that in a change of command, Colonel de Tracey over the past