

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, it so happens that the CRTC is holding public hearings on this issue because many Canadians feel that cable TV rates are too high.

[English]

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I could go over to Hull, but I am not going. I want to ask the minister a question.

The fact is that cable rates are increasing enormously and phone rates are either frozen or they have dropped.

By refusing to have rate of return legislation, as we in the NDP advocate, is the government not sending the wrong signals to the CRTC, or is it simply a matter that the government is not listening to ordinary Canadians, the government is not heeding them, the government is not caring about them, and the government refuses to protect them with strong legislation on cable?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, unlike the NDP, this government respects the independence of the agencies that are responsible for examining these issues.

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[English]

PUBLIC WORKS

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. Given that the Daly building has been recognized as one of the most important historical buildings in the nation's capital, given that the decision was made to preserve the sterling and rare Chicago style of architecture, and given that the National Capital Commission has already wasted millions of dollars waiting for the developer to come up with restoration plans, the question is why has the NCC now approved a plan that will virtually eliminate or destroy any authentic traces of what it was trying to preserve in the first place?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I cannot debate the aesthetics of architecture with my colleague opposite. I appreciate the question. However, I understand that some of the modifications that have been made, particularly with

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respect to windows, are in the name of energy conservation. I will attempt to find out more details for her.

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same minister. The National Capital Commission has lost \$2.5 million yearly on the Daly building in rental revenue. The developer has tied up the NCC for \$1 a year for a good number of years. The central chambers in the 489 Sussex Drive buildings remain vacant. Lost revenue defies the spirit of fiscal restraint.

In tight fiscal times, how can the minister justify prime real estate remaining vacant?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, my information, and I stand to be corrected, is that in fact a satisfactory lease has been entered into with the developer for the Daly building and that revenues have been secured.

I will attempt to get more information, but I do not accept *prima facie* what my colleague has said. I understand that revenues have been secured and that a lease has been signed.

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IMMIGRATION

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. There is a debate proceeding currently in the U.S. Congress about a cold war provision of U.S. immigration law which has been used for decades by Americans to prohibit many law-abiding Canadians from entering the United States on the alleged grounds that they are subversive.

I want to ask the minister if he is prepared to make representations to the American administration to help promote the repeal of this section which really has no place in the laws of a great democracy?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, one of the more difficult challenges I have had to face in this office was when the United States tried to keep Farley Mowat out. That was not an issue that receded quietly. I made representations then on behalf of Farley Mowat to try to get him into the United States, successfully. I think that the relevance of that law, if it ever existed, is now passed and I certainly would be pleased to act on the suggestion of the hon. member.