

*Oral Questions*

capital projects which could create many jobs and could put our skilled and unskilled workers back to work. They are on hold until the rules of interest deductibility are stabilized and known. I am wondering if the minister would remove his own ego from being ahead of the plight of the unemployed and hoist the November 12 budget so that some stability could come back into the place of work.

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

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member seems to be exhibiting a fair amount of ego in the flamboyancy of his question.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. MacEachen:** It seems to me that we have seen that demonstrated every day by hon. members opposite who are spending more time on rhetoric and personal reflections than upon concrete measures.

**Mr. Huntington:** What about the unemployed?

**Mr. MacEachen:** When the hon. member wants to ask about concrete measures, he will get objective replies.

**Mr. Huntington:** Great answer!

**Mr. Beatty:** What a smug bunch.

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## HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

## UREA FORMALDEHYDE FOAM INSULATION—STUDIES OF HEALTH HAZARDS

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River):** Madam Speaker, my question, which is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, involves some recent revelations by Dr. Nantel, head of toxicology at Laval, and recent reports by the National Research Council which give indications that urea formaldehyde foam is an inherently unstable substance which breaks down and continuously releases more gas, that safety levels of .1 parts per million are completely arbitrary, with no reference to residential environments, and that there is no safe exposure level. There are indications that impacts on health are not just allergic reactions, but also possible long-term attacks on the immunity system. There is also a possibility that other variances of gas are released from the insulation which may affect health.

Would the minister lay before the House a list of medical studies and other studies related to these problems suggested by the recent studies released? Would he elucidate, for the House, all the information pertaining to the government's programs dealing with these health hazards?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Yes, Madam Speaker. I should be glad to table at the proper time for tabling documents, a list of the studies now in progress. I am surprised at the hon. member's question, because just before the Easter adjournment I sent all members of the House an information document which included a list of research projects started by the National Research Council of Canada and the Department of National Health and Welfare. I should be happy to send the hon. member some more copies.

• (1440)

[English]

## REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT CONSIDER FURTHER SAFETY PROGRAMS

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River):** Madam Speaker, the surprise should not overtake the minister considering the amount of fog he has distributed on this subject. Those kinds of questions are being asked by many home owners who are exposed to it. Nevertheless, if there is any substance to those remarks, and there is more and more information indicating that this is the case, is the minister prepared to admit that his program for remediation, based on reducing the concentration of gas in homes, and a grant of up to \$5,000, will be totally inappropriate? In future, if the insulation breaks down in those homes, it will create a health hazard and the entire \$110 million program will be wasted. Will the minister explain to the House what other options the government is considering when this program fails?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I do not agree with the hon. member. In fact, I must say, with some reluctance, that the Canadian government seems to be the only government to have offered any concrete assistance to UFFI victims. No other government, either provincial or municipal, has offered any financial assistance to these victims and nowhere else in the world where similar products are sold has there been any effort by government authorities to help these victims. The only government to take any action has been the Canadian government.

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## AIRPORTS

## FUTURE OF DORVAL AND MIRABEL

**Mr. Pierre Deniger (La Prairie):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the hon. Minister of Transport and concerns the decision on the Dorval-Mirabel matter, which was promised for May. Could the minister inform the House and the Canadian people whether he is prepared to accept the recommendation made by participants in the economic summit