

Another reason, and a more important problem is malnutrition, something that as President of the World Food Council for the past two years he has been intent on doing something about.

He has done a great deal about it. I know Mr. Whelan. I know that he has constantly been raising the problem of malnutrition in Africa. He has been raising the problem in Cabinet. He has been trying to help refugees.

I would agree that the phrase about IQs and wearing hats does not sound very good when you look at it in black and white, but I would imagine Mr. Whelan did it with tongue in cheek. The Hon. Member for Saskatoon West looks disgusted at my answer. I remind him that his seatmate, the Hon. Member for St. John's West, talked about our former Minister of Finance, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, going to Gabon to be with people who were swinging from trees. Do you remember that? I remember it. I do not think that was a very good remark either, but we did not make a question out of it. I can give other examples.

I know Mr. Whelan. I know that he is very sensitive to the difficult economic situations in Africa. I certainly am not going to make a fuss about this.

REQUEST FOR MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

Mr. Charles Mayer (Portage-Marquette): Mr. Speaker, I suggest that many of the things the Prime Minister said in his response are total *non sequiturs*. His Minister, a Minister of the Crown, has uttered what most people would say is a totally unacceptable racial slur. If the Prime Minister does not ask for the Minister's resignation and continues to keep him in his Cabinet, he will cast some very serious doubts on his lifelong concern over civil liberties, his Charter of Rights, and his concern for minority rights. I ask him again whether he is prepared to ask for that Minister's resignation. If he does not, he will be launching his retirement on a very sour note that is in contrast to many of the things he stood for as Prime Minister of this country.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am certainly not going to ask for his resignation, but I would ask the Hon. Member if maybe he goes out in the sun without a hat sometimes.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Charles Mayer (Portage-Marquette): Mr. Speaker, Members on the other side can laugh all they want, but this is a very serious matter. A Minister of the Crown of this country has insulted a whole continent with which we have good relations. I again suggest that, if the Prime Minister treats the matter in this kind of offhand manner, he will find that his cavalier attitude toward this matter casts a very serious doubt over what he has stood for on behalf of minority rights in this country.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there is one sentence that expresses a thought which, quite often, I like to take as a guideline: "One ought not to take tragically what should properly be taken seriously". I am always astonished to see the Opposition take tragically things which have been said lightheartedly on this side of the House.

[English]

Why did they not make a fuss when their Leader, Mr. Mulroney, made fun about our Minister of Finance going to an OECD meeting in Paris in order to be with the Folies Bergères? Was that a racial slur, or was that just absolute nonsense? This kind of thing crosses this aisle often and I do not take it tragically.

REQUEST FOR APOLOGY

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any analogy whatever with respect to the examples that have been given. The Minister of Agriculture, representing Canada, who is also President of the World Food Council, has uttered a very unacceptable racial slur. The Prime Minister will know that Mr. Earl Butz uttered similar racial slurs in the United States, and he resigned. He was asked by the President to resign his portfolio. What I find unacceptable is that the Prime Minister condones the statement of the Minister of Agriculture, which is really incredible. Will he not at least ask him to do the decent thing and apologize, particularly to those Canadians of African descent who require an apology from the Prime Minister of Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member does his usual thing. He says I condone. I did not condone. I said the contrary. The Hon. Member is distorting what I said. He is doing it in a way which I find unacceptable, in order to prove a point about a statement. Everybody knows the Minister of Agriculture. He is talking in the House all the time. Everyone realizes that he is a good, sound, human being.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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ESTIMATES

NON-APPEARANCE OF MINISTER OF ENERGY BEFORE COMMITTEE

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. His Government's Estimates are deemed to be passed by midnight tonight, yet his Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has refused to appear before the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works to explain and defend his Department's expenditures totalling \$3.1 billion. The Minister has already defied the Prime Minister's instructions to be in the House to answer questions. The Minister is introducing the Canada-