

THE BUDGET

INQUIRY AS TO DATE OF PRESENTATION

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance about a subject that I am sure is burning in his mind every hour of the day. Can he tell the House when he is going to present his first and, I hope, his last budget?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): I cannot, Mr. Speaker, but I can assure the hon. gentleman that we will survive as long as he does.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's supplementary did not refer to the question previously being considered. I did not appreciate that his supplementary was not related to the question asked by the right hon. member for Prince Albert. I will recognize the hon. member for Yukon, who I believe has a supplementary to that particular question.

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NATIONAL PARKS

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE STUDY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE NEW NORTHERN PARKS

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I was glad to hear the minister say that public hearings are to be held into the question of private enterprise incursions into the Lake Louise area of Banff National Park. Would he refer the matter of the establishment of the three northern national parks which he recently announced to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development so that conservationists and industry might be heard with respect to boundaries and other park problems?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, my department's estimates will be referred to the committee in the near future, and if hon. members then wish to ask me some questions on the matter, I will be pleased to answer them.

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[English]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST INVOLVED IN GIVING GRANTS TO FALCONBRIDGE, IBM, UNION CARBIDE AND WESTINGHOUSE

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question really is supplementary to that asked by the hon. member for Regina East. In the absence of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, may I direct it to the Acting Prime Minister. Can the Acting Prime Minister tell the House whether any conflict of interest is involved between grants given by DREE to Falconbridge Nickel Mines, IBM, Union Carbide and Westinghouse totalling over \$12 million and the announced plans by these compa-

Inquiries of the Ministry

nies to book tables for today's Liberal fund raising dinner in Toronto?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member no doubt appreciates that a question asked in those terms is not in order. The hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings.

Mr. Hees: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister to whom I wished to direct my question, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, has fled from the House so I will wait.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

RELEASE OF YVES GEOFFROY FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PENITENTIARY—REPRESENTATIONS FOR NEW TRIAL

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General of Canada took notice of a question of mine the other day.

An hon. Member: Hurrah!

Mr. Woolliams: I asked whether he had been approached directly or indirectly about a new trial for Geoffroy under certain conditions. As I say, he took the question as notice. I now ask whether he has been approached indirectly, either by one of his associates or by anyone else, and how has he been approached? Was it by telephone or by a conference in his office? If so, who was with him and in what manner was he approached?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the use of the word "indirectly" may, as used by the hon. member, be misleading, although I think the word was contained in his earlier question. What I meant in my earlier reply was that at that point I had no personal knowledge of any such contact. I have since checked the matter with my department and they have received no communication on this subject. So there has been no communication with my department or with me on this subject.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, the other day I asked whether the Solicitor General—and I appreciate the niceties of the question—had approached the Minister of Justice, because he says that somebody had contacted him. I want to know from the minister, through you, Mr. Speaker, whether any conversation took place in regard to this, what that conversation was, and who contacted the ministers of the Crown in question?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I believe that when this question was put to the Solicitor General he replied. As to the matter of any contact with him I know, although ordinarily we do not make comments about communications between members of the Privy Council on matters like this, that the simple answer is no, flatly; there was no conversation between the Solicitor General and myself.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the parliamentary secretary a question about an answer given by the Solicitor General. I had hoped he would be here today. The Solicitor General mentioned, in answering my ques-