

Oral Questions

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to point out, without adding to the fire, that the issue which creates a question of conflict of interest, which I suggest is a totally improper act, is not the fact that a daughter of some member of this House was on an OFY committee—there is no reason that children of members of this House should not participate in this program—but the fact that \$15,000 of OFY money was to be used for propaganda purposes in the riding of the minister. That is the conflict of interest. So that there will be no misunderstanding, may I say I do not mean this minister. I mean the Minister of State responsible for multiculturalism.

Mr. Speaker: I doubt whether this is a point of order. It is a point of debate. The hon. member has raised the matter by way of a point of debate and the minister may reply.

Mr. Faulkner: It really does not matter a great deal whether the question is addressed to me or any other minister. The point which I would have thought the hon. member for York South might have wanted to consider before he made that observation is that he should have studied the project in question to see whether it qualified in the terms he pronounced. I suggest that if he will take five minutes with me after the question period we could go over the project and he will see that it does not justify his comments.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Rocky Mountain on a supplementary followed by the hon. member for Portneuf.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—REQUEST THAT MINISTER APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEE

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a brief supplementary for the Secretary of State. In light of the great concern about this question and the announced intention of the government not to make a statement on motions about the future of the OFY program, will the Secretary of State give his undertaking now concerning his willingness to appear again, before the House recesses, before the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts, to discuss the OFY program?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): I have no objection to appearing before the committee. I have always enjoyed appearances in the past and will be available in the future if we can arrange to have the matter looked into again. I might deal with the first point which is the suggestion that we have precluded the possibility of a statement on motions. That is not the case as I understand it. It might very well be that at the time the announcement is made we will proceed by that route. That has not been decided yet.

[Mr. Faulkner.]

[Translation]

PUBLIC WORKS

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF RETAINING WALLS ON ST. LAWRENCE—DEPARTMENTS POLICY

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Public Works.

Would he consider making soon a statement to the House to inform us of the department's projects concerning the construction and maintenance of retaining walls along the shores of the St. Lawrence?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that it is necessary to make a statement on motions regarding this. The government policy is quite clear: where erosion is due to shipping, we regard ourselves as responsible and we take the required steps to have damages repaired. But where damages are due to natural causes, then this is not government responsibility.

Mr. Godin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Since navigation on the St. Lawrence is extremely close to the shores, could the minister tell us what was the basis of his criteria last year when he ordered the construction of a retaining wall in Rivière-au-Renard where boats are travelling 25 miles offshore?

* * *

[English]

HOUSING

STUDENT CO-OPERATIVE PROJECTS—ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPRIETY—REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL INQUIRY

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to follow up on some questions I put to the Minister of Urban Affairs. In light of the fact that the minister said yesterday he was not informed of criminal allegations connected with the student co-operative projects, and in light of the officials of CMHC saying they were not advised of the secret inquiry by the minister, will the minister now change his position after discussion with the Prime Minister and let us have a judicial inquiry to air the matter rather than have the wishy-washy answers we have been getting for the last few days?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I have made clear, we are having a report prepared which will serve, of course, as advice to myself and to the Prime Minister concerning what further action should be taken. I have had some difficulty getting some of the documents I have wanted. For example, on Tuesday the hon. member for Calgary North assured the House—and I quote the hon. member—“I am prepared to do that, although I have not the number. I have the affidavit, if he”—the minister—“would like to look at it”. I have been waiting since Tuesday for that affidavit from the hon. member and it now appears that he misled the House and does not have the affidavit. So, Mr. Speaker, I