

PUBLIC WORKS

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS PRINCIPLE OF
FRENCH LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Mr. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Public Works, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. I would first like to congratulate the Prime Minister's government on the position it has taken with regard to the secondary French language school at Penetanguishene.

I understand that \$100,000 has been invested to improve the premises. Does this represent support in principle by the Prime Minister's government for the creation of a separate secondary French language school in Penetanguishene?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, what this represents is a decision by the Government of Canada, which we had the opportunity to discuss on an informal basis with the government of Ontario, to make repairs to a public building that was in need of repair.

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, would the repairs have been made in the absence of the requirements of the school, because I understand the repairs were made to enable the building to be used for the functions of a school? Therefore, I would again ask the Prime Minister if this is not an endorsement of the existence of such a school.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is asking me if the government knew what it was doing when it made the repairs. The answer is yes.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INQUIRY WHETHER PRIME MINISTER CONSULTED PROVINCES
BEFORE MAKING CAMPAIGN PROMISE ON MOVE OF MIDDLE
EAST EMBASSY

Mr. Maurice Dupras (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. It follows from the answer given by the Secretary of State for External Affairs to my colleague from Ottawa-Carleton about the consultation that Mr. Stanfield intends to have with the provinces. Can the Prime Minister tell the House what kind of consultation he had with provincial premiers before he promised during the campaign to move our embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I understand that consultation with the premiers is not a problem for Liberal spokesmen since they have no opportunity to speak with the premiers. However, I believe that if this is a serious matter, if Mr. Stanfield wishes to consult the provinces, I do not have to discuss with him the need for such consultations as the decision is up to him. He can hold such consultation by phone or in person.

Oral Questions

Mr. Dupras: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. I ask the Prime Minister what kind of consultation he had with the premiers before the election and during the election campaign when he made that promise to move our embassy. I am not interested in knowing how Mr. Stanfield will consult the provinces. I want to know what consultation he had himself before making that promise?

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, before the election I could not, like the leader of the hon. member, speak officially as government leader with the premiers. Of course, during the election campaign I was closer to the premiers than the opposition leader because they were pleased to see me. But as to whether or not I made the decision to discuss every item of our electoral platform with each premier, indeed not, because we are a federal party and as such we make our own decisions.

● (1200)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order. Because of some time used in considering points raised during the course of the question period so far, we shall continue the question period for a few minutes. I would think that we could appropriately conclude the question period by recognizing the hon. members for Vancouver-Kingsway, Sherbrooke, Spadina and Kenora-Rainy River.

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CULTURAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL FILM BOARD—ACTION TO MAINTAIN FUNCTION

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State. May I say that the minister comes to his office with a very good reputation amongst the artistic community. I hope he can keep that reputation and obtain some money from the President of the Treasury Board.

Since we did not beat the Americans in the war of 1812 with words only, what actions, if any, will the minister take to save the dying National Film Board and to stop this terrible situation which was pointed out earlier by the hon. member for Mission-Port Moody?

Hon. David MacDonald (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his kind remarks. I can assure him that I am very much aware of the increasing difficulties encountered by the National Film Board, particularly with regard to the very substantial cuts which took place in the budget last year.

I have already had meetings with the commissioner of the Film Board and with my own officials to see if we cannot work out a much more effective, immediate solution to their problems in order that their outstanding work—which was referred to in the motion presented by the hon. member for Mission-Port Moody—can be pursued. I think that the Film Board is