

Oral Questions

Helsinki Accord and request that they urge the Polish authorities to grant those exit visas, in order to add the strength of world opinion in opposing this clearly inhumane act by the Polish Government?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is raising cases which are quite well known to the Government and myself. Under instructions, officials of the Department have made representations to the Polish authorities toward the end of May and again this month with respect to these cases. Up to the present time the Polish authorities have declined to reverse the decisions which they have already made. We have indicated our readiness to receive the members of the strikers' families. All we can do is continue the efforts. The Hon. Member may remember that late last year we had similar incidents which we substantially solved. I am hoping we will have the same result here.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER SEEK SUPPORT OF HELSINKI ACCORD
SIGNATORIES

Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, my question was in no way critical of the Government's effort in the matter. In fact, it has been exemplary. I was making a suggestion and wanted the Minister to respond to it. I suggest that the Government go further and contact the other signatories of the Helsinki Accord and ask them to put pressure, along with the Canadian Government, on the Polish authorities. That would allow further weight of world opinion so that we could put that kind of pressure on the Polish Government. Clearly the weight of the Canadian Government is not—

Mr. Speaker: The Chair is giving the Hon. Member an opportunity. I think he has made his point. There are several Members on his side who are anxiously seeking recognition. The Chair understood there was only to be one question by the Hon. Member.

Mr. Crombie: May I be allowed to put the question, Mr. Speaker? I simply wanted to ask the Minister to respond to the suggestion that we could gain something on behalf of these people by contacting the signatories of the Helsinki Accord and asking them to intervene on behalf of the strikers.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member's suggestion is a serious one. We do associate ourselves with the other members of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in family reunification cases. In our discussions we move together. The idea that a number of countries join in supporting cases respecting Canada is a novel idea. I am doubtful whether it would be effective. I certainly will give consideration to it.

It is true that of all the eastern European countries the Polish authorities have been among the most co-operative in responding to family reunification cases. I hope that the more open attitude which they have demonstrated will be reinforced

by action they may take in the cases which the Hon. Member mentions.

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FINANCE

REQUEST THAT TAX ON TOURIST MATERIALS BE REMOVED

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. It is with regard to his 9 per cent tax on tourism materials. The tourist industry in Canada employs about 11 per cent of Canadians. It could employ a lot more Canadians, including young Canadians, particularly in small business. The tax is constituting a growing irritant to Canada-U.S. relations. In view of the fact that the tourist industry association is so concerned about this tax, will the Minister agree to have it removed in the interest of creating more tourism jobs across Canada?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have heard the Hon. Member make this representation on various occasions. The Hon. Member ought to mention, as well, the efforts being made by the Canadian Government to help the tourist industry. My colleague, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, spoke earlier about all the splendid activities being initiated by the Government to help this industry. I shall consider the Hon. Member's question as a suggestion, but I may remind him that this Government is doing more for the industry today than any other Government has done in the history of our country.

[English]

POSSIBLE PRINTING OF TOURIST PAMPHLETS IN UNITED STATES

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister responsible for tourism. Brewster Transportation of Alberta has indicated to him that it will move the printing of its pamphlets for 1985 to the United States unless this tax is removed. That will cost more jobs. I remind the Minister that a lot of young Canadians get jobs with Brewster Transportation in that province. Can the Minister share any information about this tax beyond what his colleague has said?

Hon. David Smith (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, this matter falls within the jurisdiction of the Minister of Finance. He has indicated he will review that proposal. I will discuss it with him.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

ACID RAIN—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Gary Gurbín (Bruce-Grey): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. The Government of