

In view of the wholly unjustified statement by the chairman of the Canada Council on cultural accessibility, could the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State inform the House if Mr. Mercier will be asked to disown his statement publicly or failing this, to resign if things come to the worst?

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the board of trustees of the National Arts Centre—to be more exact—has already given the press explanations which are the equivalent, if not of a formal retraction, at least of the expression of a quite chastened personal opinion in respect of what he had inadvertently stated during a press conference.

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

I would like to ask the Secretary of State if he can tell the House whether steps have been taken or contacts have been established between his department or a member of the cabinet and the person involved in connection with this statement?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think this question, as asked, is not in order.

[English]

### NATIONAL PARKS

#### REPRESENTATIONS BY BANFF AND JASPER RESIDENTS ON BILL C-152

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Will the minister give an undertaking to the House that when Bill C-152 reaches the appropriate committee he will use his good offices to allow representatives of those living in Banff and Jasper Parks to appear before the committee to make representations?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have some doubts about the question. The hon. member recognizes that this bill is presently before the House. It seems that it might not be quite in order to allow a question which relates to a debate that is currently before the House.

**Mr. Nesbitt:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Your Honour's suggestion and under normal circumstances I would completely agree with Your Honour. But since the minister has absented himself during the entire debate and has refused to come into the House, this is the only time I can ask the question.

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### Inquiries of the Ministry

**Mr. Speaker:** My understanding is that the debate has not been completed. Perhaps there will be opportunities in the course of the debate to ask the question.

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** The minister on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, the bill before the House is very well defended by the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham, my Parliamentary Secretary.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Chrétien:** It is in keeping with the procedure for the Chairman of a committee to allow people to appear before a committee and, as a minister, I would not have any objection if some citizens from Banff were to give evidence before the committee.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I suggest there is no question of privilege.

[English]

### DRUGS

#### INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF LE DAIN COMMISSION—POLICY RESPECTING MARIJUANA

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** In the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare I will direct my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the serious social problems in reference to the misuse of non-medical drugs, will the Prime Minister advise us now when the Le Dain Commission will be reporting? Also, was the Minister of National Health and Welfare stating government policy in saying that there may be a question of a moratorium on marijuana?

**Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, their report has not yet been received by the minister and no policy decision has been reached as far as this matter is concerned.

**Mr. Woolliams:** A supplementary question. I may have missed the first part of the answer. Can the Parliamentary Secretary advise us when the report may be forthcoming?

**Mr. Haidasz:** Mr. Speaker, the minister expects the report will be ready for him at the end of this month.