

Privilege

Hon. Douglas Peters (Secretary of State (International Financial Institutions), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question and for his interest in financial institutions legislation.

Perhaps the hon. member is aware that I made remarks in Toronto recently on the question of Compcorp. I recognize it has been effective. If they will make some adequate changes to Compcorp we will certainly consider not proceeding with our policy protection board.

The four conditions I set out at the time are: revised corporate governance for Compcorp; greater access to privately financed resources; the capability of levying higher assessments if necessary; and, finally, to ensure the ability to arrange going concern solutions. These are the minimum changes that we would require from Compcorp and we would hope the private sector would answer those concerns.

* * *

[Translation]

COPYRIGHT

Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Canadian Heritage indicated that he had provided the Minister of Justice with instructions for the drafting of a copyright bill. However, the federal government still has no copyright protection policy.

Since the heritage minister is now waiting for his colleague from justice, could the Minister of Justice tell us if he plans to introduce this bill for consideration by this House before the summer recess?

• (1500)

[English]

Hon. Allan Rock (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I cannot say. I am not sure that I know the timing of the proposals. I do know that officials in my department have been communicating with Heritage Canada and are at work in preparing proposals to improve the copyright law. As to timing, I am not able to answer the hon. member. Perhaps I will inquire of my colleague and let her know in the next day or two.

The Speaker: The hon. member for Sherbrooke.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

* * *

HIGHWAYS

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Sherbrooke, PC): Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for the usual reception.

On Saturday I met with a group of truckers in Nova Scotia concerning Highway 104. They were protesting the diversion of

\$26 million in funds from the federal-provincial agreement to upgrade the highway for safety reasons among others and to encourage interprovincial trade.

My question is for the Prime Minister. Given the fact that this diversion has been denounced by the auditor general of Nova Scotia as not conforming to the agreement signed between both governments, will the Prime Minister rein in his minister of public works so that he stops sending money to his own riding at the detriment of the safety of the highways in Nova Scotia?

Hon. Douglas Young (Minister of Transport, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome the leader of the fifth party back for his monthly appearance.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

The Speaker: I am sure the hon. minister is going to get to his answer.

Mr. Young: Mr. Speaker, I can only say that had the member been tuned in, he would have known that the question has been raised in the House on a number of occasions by members of the Reform Party. As I indicated to them and as I want to advise my hon. colleague now, the decision to build highways in Nova Scotia is a decision of the Government of Nova Scotia. The report to which my hon. colleague refers is a report by the auditor general of Nova Scotia.

It is not unheard of and certainly no precedent for this government to be able to reallocate funds and to be flexible enough to recognize realities, whether that occurs in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick or in Nova Scotia. Under these agreements funds have been reallocated.

Any beef the hon. member has would be with the few colleagues he still has in Nova Scotia in the opposition there.

The Speaker: This brings to a close the question period. I do have a point of privilege from the hon. member for Prince Albert—Churchill River.

* * *

PRIVILEGE**ALLEGED CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Mr. Gordon Kirkby (Prince Albert—Churchill River, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, on Friday the member for North Island—Powell River made the following statement about me:

Mr. Speaker, the member for Prince Albert was adopted by binding aboriginal ceremony into the Bird family of the Montreal Lake Band in a powwow about two years ago. Roy Bird, the chief of the band, is an important player in this family. The member for Prince Albert has been co-opted by the minister and is defending these negotiations with his adopted family.

Will the minister not agree that he has placed this member, knowingly or unknowingly, in a conflict of interest situation?

I have been accused by the hon. member from the Reform Party of being in a conflict of interest situation. I feel that these accusations have very serious moral and legal implications