

*Oral Questions***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**SOVIET ACTION AGAINST SYMPOSIUM OF JEWS IN MOSCOW—  
POSSIBILITY OF CANADIAN PROTEST

**Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Minister of External Affairs who I believe is the government House leader. What steps has the Canadian government taken to indicate its dismay to the Soviet government at the stifling of the December symposium in Moscow, a symposium which was organized by Jews who wished to discuss the present state and possible future development of Jewish culture in the U.S.S.R.?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I will have to check into that particular situation to determine whether any comment was made by the Department of External Affairs or the government on the point.

**Mr. McKenzie:** Mr. Speaker, will the minister also check to see what effect this action will have on the intent and the meaning of the Helsinki Accord?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

GARRISON DIVERSION—POSSIBILITY OF PRIME MINISTER  
DISCUSSING SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER

**Mr. Dean Whiteway (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister without Portfolio from Manitoba. It relates to the Garrison diversion project and the proposed visit of the Prime Minister to Washington to meet with the new President and his administration. Could the Minister without Portfolio indicate to the House whether the Cabinet has looked at the IJC report, and specifically whether the Cabinet has instructed the Prime Minister to raise the Garrison diversion project with the new President as a matter of urgency and priority during his meetings in Washington?

**Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to advise the hon. member for Selkirk that my reason for being in Cabinet is not to report on what goes on within Cabinet as such.

**An hon. Member:** What is the reason?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** Why are you there, Joe?

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the hon. member that I am looking at the matter, specifically the Garrison project of which he is speaking, and I assure him that I will bring the important matter to the attention of the Prime Minister.

**Mr. Whiteway:** Mr. Speaker, would the same minister indicate whether the Prime Minister is going to raise the Garrison matter with the President of the United States as a matter of priority and urgency?

[Mr. Patterson.]

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Ask the Prime Minister.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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● (1440)

**INDIAN AFFAIRS**

## FINANCING OF ABENAKI MOTEL—REQUEST FOR REPORT

**Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Is the minister in a position to report to the House on the discussions he has had with officials of the Abenaki Motel, that is a project which comes under the purview of his department, in relation to the new financing of the operation of that motel which is an Indian project?

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I have not had discussions with the representative of that motel myself but officials of my department have in the last day or two. As soon as I get a report, I will be pleased to give it to the House.

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[Translation]

**STATUS OF WOMEN**

## PROMOTION OF WOMEN IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

**Mr. F. A. Philbrook (Halton):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the minister responsible for the status of women.

[English]

In view of the encouraging increase in the number of women filling senior positions in the civil service, will the minister assure the House that the spirit of International Women's Year shall be carried into 1977?

[Translation]

In other words, will the minister continue to encourage the trend toward women seeking greater participation in senior positions within the public service?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, it is with a great pleasure that I was able to announce that last year there has been a substantial increase in the number of women promoted to important positions within the government, whenever these nominations were the cabinet's responsibility, that is when they have been appointed by order in council. I can assure the honourable member and the House that the government aims again at increasing this percentage for the current year, and I hope that the statistics we will publish next year on that matter will reflect significant improvement in the situation.