

Oral Questions

drunk driving conviction. I would remind the Minister that when Parliament introduced that provision it had very great public support. Is the Minister of Justice prepared to introduce an amendment to the Criminal Code to correct the technicality which resulted in the invalidation of mandatory incarceration for a second conviction?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's question. As he knows, the matter is going to receive a review. I will have an opportunity to discuss this and other matters with my provincial colleagues involved in the administration of justice at a meeting which will take place at the end of May. At that time I hope we can work together in terms of having an appropriate balance in this important question.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): That is disappointing, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister of Justice still have the conviction—and is it still the firm policy of the Government, a policy with which the whole of this Parliament agreed—that there should be mandatory incarceration on a second conviction for drunk driving?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, this Government has brought in legislation which has done more in terms of the Criminal Code provisions concerning drinking and driving. Our commitment is beyond question. The whole point of this endeavour is to make sure in a co-operative effort that we can move forward. I have involved myself in consultation with my provincial counterparts so as to get the benefit of their points of view. I intend to carry on consultation. We will act decisively once that consultation has been completed.

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CROWN CORPORATIONS

HARBOURFRONT—CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS
ON TORONTO WATERFRONT

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. I have a question for him about eastern Canada. As the Minister knows, Harbourfront, which is a Crown corporation managing Toronto's waterfront, made a dozen secret deals allowing developers, such as Huang and Danczkay, to build high-rise towers that violate City of Toronto by-laws for Harbourfront. Does the Government of Canada intend to order a public inquiry into such mismanagement of a Crown corporation?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, at last reading of my geography book, the Hon. Member is referring to central Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: As we say in Saskatoon, the Hon. Member represents a central Canadian riding. Having said that, I do not accept the premise of the Member's question. Given the allegations made by the Hon. Member, I think the matter is the responsibility of the provincial Attorney General. However, I will give consideration to his representations.

• (1150)

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I accept the Hon. Minister's preference for his own geographical language which differs from a former Premier of Alberta who proposed to let those eastern so-and-sos, including Ontario, freeze.

My supplementary concerns the same project in Toronto. One of the buildings being constructed by Huang and Danczkay will bring no revenue to Harbourfront for 10 years. Yet all the non-profit projects were required to pay right from the beginning. Does the Minister not consider that such gross favouritism and discrimination by a federal Crown corporation deserves a very thorough public inquiry?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I reiterate if the Hon. Member has any proof of any wrongdoing then he should report it to the appropriate authorities rather than standing up in this House and grandstanding with allegations he is not prepared to turn over to the authorities. Our system of justice does not involve making allegations under the protection of the House of Commons and getting publicity for a position which may not be justified in fact. I suggest the Hon. Member respect the traditions of Canadian justice.

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YOUTH

DISADVANTAGED YOUTH—TERMINATION OF BRIDGING THE
GAP PROGRAM

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Youth. He will know that a program called Bridging the Gap is designed to assist severely disadvantaged youth in Lunenburg and Queens County, Nova Scotia. Can the Minister inform the House why funding for this project has been terminated when the Ministry knew the program did not duplicate any other program from any level of government? Educators, parents of these young people, the private sector, and all three levels of government, including the regional office of CEIC, were in favour of continued funding for this most important project.

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for South Shore also made representations concerning this program.