

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Brewin:** Mr. Speaker, I hope the parliamentary secretary will impress upon the minister the urgency of answering this question. I put the question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I am sorry?

**Mr. Brewin:** I do not know whether he heard the question I put.

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

**Mr. Brewin:** I do not intend to repeat it.

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

**Mr. Brewin:** However, I intend to put the question, if I may.

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

**Mr. Brewin:** Has the Secretary of State for External Affairs communicated with the government of Argentina because of its refusal to allow Canadian immigration authorities to visit political prisoners whom we have promised to admit to this country as refugees?

**Mr. Jamieson:** Mr. Speaker, I would have to take notice of the question.

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

**Mr. Jamieson:** First of all, let me apologize for not having heard the preamble to the question. I will take notice of it so that I can give the hon. member and the House a precise answer.

In a general way, we have made a number of representations to the government of Argentina. We have been seeking, in every way we can, to facilitate the exit of those people who have had our authorization and encouragement to come to Canada; but whether we have made a specific kind of representation of the type asked for by the hon. member, I do not know. If we have not, certainly I do not see any reason why we should not and I will so instruct my officials.

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**LABOUR CONDITIONS****MINISTER'S RESPONSIBILITY RESPECTING EASTERN ONTARIO**

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the new Minister of Labour.

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

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** In the cabinet which has been described as a recirculation of tired blood, his entry is the only case of the infusion of old blood.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Andras:** That is not befitting you, my friend.

[Mr. Maine.]

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Among his responsibilities as Minister of Labour, has responsibility been given for him to represent the interests of eastern Ontario which once again has been neglected respecting the infusion into cabinet?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Does he have specific responsibilities respecting eastern Ontario?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I regret very much that clear precedent prevents the hon. minister answering the question. If he had responsibilities of that sort, they would be political and geographic in nature, rather than administrative. There is a clear precedent that questions must be confined to administrative responsibilities.

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**INDIAN AFFAIRS****AUDITOR GENERAL'S CRITICISM OF ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES OF INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the report of the Auditor General regarding inadequate accounting and control procedures for the Indian Economic Development Fund involving many millions of dollars, and the fact that the minister and his officials have been aware of this problem for some two, three or four years, can the minister advise why he did not take steps to clean up this mess when he first learned of it, rather than let it continue?

**Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think the hon. member has put the question very accurately. The fact is that there has been a serious clean-up of the program and it has led to a new set of problems. With the available funds we have stabilized some of the previous projects. That was agreed to by the committee. I do not think it can be argued by the Auditor General unless one argues that the only type of operation we get into in the Indian Affairs program is one which meets absolutely all the criteria of the Woods, Gordon report.

The hon. member knows perfectly well that when we are dealing with economic development on or adjacent to reserves, there are certain risks involved. If the Tories are not prepared to take those risks, let them say so clearly. In my view, unless we are prepared to take some of those risks there will be no development at all on the reserves.

**Mr. Neil:** Mr. Speaker, if the Tories take a risk, certainly they examine the situation beforehand to see whether the risk is worth taking.

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