

External Affairs

because of the incident to which reference has been made. I hope the government will not act on that basis, and that the government's actions will not be dictated by the obvious and normal human desire for revenge in instances of this kind. If two or three Canadians had been killed, for example, in the Kent State incident in the United States, there would have been outrage but certainly not demands for separation of relationships from the United States. There would have been demands for an official apology from the government of that country and perhaps for compensation, but certainly not demands for punitive action. I think it is only proper, even though Zambia is not one of the world's most powerful nations, that we should treat that country in the same way as we would treat any other nation with whom we have friendly relations.

I think it was unfortunate in the extreme, given the potential for adverse reaction in this country, that the government of Zambia did not see fit to communicate directly with our government on the issue and provide it with facts at its disposal directly, instead of operating via press releases. I think it is also unfortunate that in its initial reactions to this incident, the government of Zambia made statements which now would appear clearly not to have been in accordance with the facts.

I hope our government will insist that the government of Zambia issue an official apology and a full explanation of the incident. And, if that full explanation seems to warrant it, I hope our government will demand compensation for the families who have suffered this tragic loss. Certainly, until such time as we receive a satisfactory answer from the government of Zambia, our own independent inquiries through our embassy officials there should continue.

I think one final point must be made. This tragedy should have brought home to all Canadians forcefully the results which flow from the kinds of tensions which are produced in this world by racist regimes. Borders are closed, and armed troops patrol those borders. These tensions are a result of policies pursued by certain countries which are unacceptable to us as a nation and unacceptable to the United Nations. I hope that that is the lesson that Canadians have learned from this incident.

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, the statement the Secretary of State for External Affairs just made leaves us somewhat puzzled, although the minister seems to demand a more exhaustive investigation than the report submitted by the Zambian government.

I think we should demand more than that in order to know all the facts involved in a situation we look like a double murder.

Many Canadians are wondering about that, particularly those who are planning to go abroad. We need to feel secure when we travel in other countries, either as tourists or official representatives. And when such tragedies occur, we need to know all the circumstances. In the present case, some families have lost dear ones, and I agree with my colleagues who urge the Secretary of State for External Affairs to insist that those families should receive some compensation.

[Mr. Rowland.]

[English]

Mr. Hales: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I ask permission to say one or two words about this tragedy, particularly as these two girls come from my riding?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I gather that the House agrees. I expect hon. members are familiar with subsection 3 of Standing Order No. 15. However, if it is the will of the House that the hon. member be heard, he will be recognized.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, may I thank you and hon. members of the House. I will not repeat what has been said concerning this tragedy. I am wondering why it has taken this government 16 days to make a statement in the House, and not a complete statement, at that. We are still left in doubt about the true facts surrounding this tragic incident. I hope the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) will give to this House early next week a full and complete report on this tragedy. I also hope he will be able to say what compensation may be forthcoming to the families of the two Canadian girls, in addition to covering many other points that I do not wish to take up the time of the House in discussing as they have already been mentioned. We must not delay this matter any longer. The longer the government lets this matter stay in limbo, the more questions will be asked and the more serious and complex will become this political issue. So, I seriously hope that early next week the Secretary of State for External Affairs will give us a more comprehensive report.

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● (1600)

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate have passed Bill S-6, An Act respecting Centre Amusement Co. Limited, to which the concurrence of this House is desired.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**WEEKLY STATEMENT**

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the usual Thursday afternoon, now almost evening, question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Peace River on the usual Thursday point of order.

Mr. Baldwin: I wish to ask the government House leader if he has managed to maintain his priorities for the legislative program between now and the end of June. I do not suggest this is the order because that may be embarrassing, but I understand we are to deal with housing,