

Status of Women

penchant for good housekeeping, I would like to return these cards to the Minister of Agriculture.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

MR. WADDELL—STATEMENT MADE BY MR. TAYLOR

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. As reported at page 6805 of yesterday's *Hansard* the following exchange took place:

MISS BÉGIN: Name a better country than Canada.

MR. TAYLOR: Alberta.

I wonder if the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) would take the opportunity to correct *Hansard* in that regard.

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Madam Speaker, I would like to say that the rest of what I said is not in *Hansard*. I said "without Alberta the federal government would be broke", and I stand by that.

Mr. Waddell: It is clearly in the record of *Hansard* at page 6805:

MISS BÉGIN: Name a better country than Canada.

MR. TAYLOR: Alberta.

The hon. member refuses to change that. Are we in this House to understand he really believes that?

Madam Speaker: If the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) does not wish to correct *Hansard*, that is his prerogative. If he wants the text to stand as it is, it will stand as it is. The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) cannot force the hon. member for Bow River to change words he thinks the hon. member said in this House.

Mr. Taylor: Madam Speaker, I would like to say that I am not in any way responsible to any member of the NDP. If the hon. member does not like it, he can lump it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

TABLING OF MINISTER'S LETTER

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 41(2) I should like to lay upon the Table a file copy of a letter I sent to the executive committee of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women requesting that they make public their affidavit concerning the minutes of the January 9 meeting.

Mr. Walter McLean (Waterloo): Madam Speaker, having tabled the letter as he has done upon request, will the minister also table the reply he has received to the letter?

* * *

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. D. M. Collette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 28, 1,459, 1,705, 1,706, 1,707, 1,808 and 1,815.

[Text]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Question No. 28—Mr. Cossitt:

1. With reference to the answer to question No. 253 of the Third Session of the Thirtieth Parliament which states in part "It is not the practice of Canadian National to disclose the names of persons or firms submitting tenders for the supply of services", on what date was this practice established and (a) who established it (b) for what reason?

2. Since Canadian National Railways is owned by the taxpayers of Canada, will the government institute an immediate policy of making public any information legitimately requested in the House of Commons about its operations and, if not, for what reason?

3. With further reference to the answer to question No. 253 of the Third Session of the Thirtieth Parliament which states in part "The amount of gross revenue paid by Blue Line Taxi Company Limited to the Crown is considered confidential to the parties involved during the term of the agreement" (a) who considers this to be confidential and for what reason (b) what are all the reasons the government permits any publicly-owned operation to keep its expenditures confidential (c) will the government now make this information public?

Mr. D. M. Collette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Department of Transport, the management of the Canadian National Railways and the Prime Minister's and Privy Council offices as follows:

1. The cited practice is based on the needs and customs of the competitive commercial environment in which CN operates, including respect for confidentiality regarding the affairs of others proposing to contract with it. The time when that specific practice was adopted is unknown but doubtless pre-dates the tenures of office of the present members of the board of directors and senior management officers of CN. The reason may be taken to be the protection of CN's ability to negotiate or call tenders advantageously.

2. Because Canadian National operates in a commercial and competitive environment it is not deemed desirable to impose upon that corporation disclosure policy which would place it at a disadvantage with its competitors.

3. Blue Line Taxi Company Ltd.'s contract with the Department of Transport for the provision of taxi service at Ottawa International Airport was a negotiated agreement dating from 1969. This agreement was terminated on April 30, 1980.

(a) It is standard business practice that financial information contained in such agreements is not released with-