

Oral Questions

Mr. Bob Mills (Red Deer, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the minister continues to skate around the issue. All we really want are the facts and we want to see some impartiality surrounding the Somali inquiry. We do not want it to be compromised.

Despite the reassurances of both the minister and Ms. Doyle there is a public perception that the inquiry is no longer objective and that it will be hindered in getting to the bottom of the Somali affair.

Will the defence minister restore the integrity of the public inquiry by removing Anne-Marie Doyle immediately?

Hon. David M. Collenette (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I gave the three criteria the commissioners had to have before they were appointed. One of them was impartiality.

If it is found that is not there or if there is any other call into question of the integrity of these individuals it will be addressed.

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[Translation]

KANESATAKE RESERVE

Mr. Michel Gauthier (Roberval, BQ): Mr. Speaker, it was reported in the media last weekend that some individuals illegally took possession of Oka residences bought by the federal government. Apparently, these actions were based on the "might is right" rule.

How can the Minister of Indian Affairs explain that the "might is right" rule still applies in Kanestake, and that these federal properties are illegally occupied?

[English]

Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report to the hon. member that between Judge Réjean Paul and the negotiator Michel Robert a housing authority was set up and 178 individuals were assessed on the basis of need. They were categorized. The houses have been allocated. A couple are giving problems but overall the process is working.

[Translation]

Mr. Michel Gauthier (Roberval, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the media were not reporting minor problems but a major one, which is the illegal occupation of federal properties.

Given that the majority of honest citizens put their names on waiting lists to be allowed to live in these houses, will the Minister of Indian Affairs confirm that his officials are negotiating leases with those who took illegal possession of these properties, so as to regularize their occupancy as quickly as possible?

[English]

Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the situation north of highway 344 still persists. I am pleased to report to the member that because of the progress made south of 344 and the process in place based on need, we are now making some progress north of 344 which I inherited.

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PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. Jim Gouk (Kootenay West—Revelstoke, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Serious allegations are being made about the Prime Minister's role in the Pearson privatization contract.

Not only has he met on numerous occasions with parties in the Claridge group but there are now questions on whether he advised the Matthews Group in its contract bid on Pearson airport.

Will the Prime Minister indicate to the House the nature of the advice as a lawyer or otherwise given to Jack Matthews specifically or the Matthews Group generally with respect to the privatization of Pearson airport?

• (1430)

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, as I said in French, I never gave advice about the privatization of the Toronto airport to anybody involved. The allegation is absolutely false.

Mr. Jim Gouk (Kootenay West—Revelstoke, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister previously suggested there is no conflict of interest with him on Pearson because he is the one who cancelled the deal.

Given that Matthews refused to donate to the Prime Minister's leadership campaign and donated instead to that of his principal competitor, will the Prime Minister submit himself to a full review by the ethics counsellor and then table that report in the House?

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we never talked about it and he did not give me a damn cent. Therefore there is absolutely no conflict of interest.

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[Translation]

KANESATAKE RESERVE

Mr. Claude Bachand (Saint-Jean, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs.

While honest citizens are eager to move into properties bought by the federal government, the normal allocation process is jeopardized by the illegal occupation of these houses. Indeed,