

Oral Questions

[English]

NATIONAL PARKS

JASPER—DATE OF REPORT ON REMOVAL OF RAILWAY FACILITIES

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Some weeks ago the minister was good enough to tell me that the intradepartmental parks department paper or report with regard to the moving of railway facilities from Jasper National Park would be made to the minister. Has he yet received the report? If not, when does he expect to receive it and to make it public?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I have received the report. I am just going through an analysis now. I will have a look at it. I do not see any reason it should not be made public virtually immediately.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley (Mr. Jelinek) rises on a point of order.

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Speaker, you will recall that on January 3, the day I departed for Innsbruck for the primary purpose of acquiring—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1500)

Mr. Jelinek:—an even better understanding of the organization and procedures in preparation for the Olympics, I suggested that was something which the government should have done a long time ago.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jelinek: On that day the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council brought to the attention of this House statements I had made the previous evening during the adjournment proceedings, one of which referred to Your Honour. I would like to take this opportunity to put on the record that that particular comment of mine was an offhand remark and, that I had absolutely no intention of casting any reflection on the Chair. If, however, that remark was given a different interpretation by others, I should like to take this opportunity to apologize to you, sir, for the misunderstanding.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cossitt: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order which stems from a question I asked in the House two weeks ago on Monday of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. At that time I asked the minister if he could report to the House on reports that the Canadian embassy in Havana had been invaded by the Cuban police and that personnel and members of the press from Canada had been manhandled during the incident. The Secretary of State for External Affairs said he would look into the matter and report. Since 15 days have gone by, and the Prime Minister was there at the time it happened and is sitting right beside the

[Mr. Ouellet.]

minister—if he does not run away—surely the minister could tell the House now exactly what happened.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I did look into the question raised by the hon. member and I discovered that, as is normal, Premier Castro had some security people with him on his visit to the Canadian reception. There were some slight misunderstandings which were rapidly cleared up.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Thirteenth Report of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs—Mr. Cafik.

[Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 3,330, 3,535, 3,644, 3,771, 3,883, 3,888 and 3,902.

[Text]

AMENDMENT TO INCOME TAX ACT

Question No. 3,330—**Mr. Brisco:**

Has the Department of Finance considered allowing interest on first and second mortgages paid on a house in which the owner is resident, as a deductible item for the purpose of calculating personal income tax?

Mr. Jacques-L. Trudel (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): An amendment to the Income Tax Act to allow a mortgage interest deduction has been considered by the Department of Finance on a number of occasions and each time has been rejected. Reasons for rejection include the very high cost of such a deduction, the fact that it would discriminate between those who have mortgages and those who do not, and the fact that it would increase the demand for borrowed money, thus driving up interest rates.

PEI COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN—PHASE 2

Question No. 3,535—**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):**

With reference to the recent agreement on Phase 2 of the PEI Comprehensive Development Plan, does the general objective spelled out in Schedule "C" represent a departure from the original aims of the Plan, especially in light of the absence of any reference to improved social conditions?