

personal slush funds for the Prime Minister and his wife indirectly subsidized by the taxpayers of Canada? When will the Prime Minister change this Act to provide some public accountability?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the derogatory comments of the Hon. Member are quite becoming of himself.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: If he wants to put forth some recommendations for changes to the Canada Elections Act, there is certainly a procedure for that. We have a Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges and Procedure. If he wants to visit that committee and make some recommendations, I am sure they might be considered.

Mr. Nystrom: Joe wouldn't do that.

Mr. Rodriguez: Joe didn't do it in nine months.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER INTRODUCE AMENDMENTS

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question as well is directed to the Prime Minister who surely must recognize that he must provide leadership in this area.

Why should Canadian taxpayers be indirectly subsidizing the extravagant tastes of the Prime Minister for closets for Gucci shoes and an assortment of other extravagant tastes?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Robinson: Why will the Prime Minister not provide leadership and recognize that a law which allows this kind of thing to happen should not be on the books? When will he bring forward changes?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, only the NDP would be astonished at the fact that the Prime Minister has undertaken to pay for those things which are personal in nature.

Only the NDP would be astonished at the fact that the Prime Minister is one of the first Prime Ministers to pay for his own groceries.

Only the NDP would be astonished by the fact that he took a voluntary pay cut, as did cabinet Ministers.

Only the NDP would be astonished that the Prime Minister established the Official Residences Council to administer all official residences in the country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

NATIONAL DEFENCE

POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINES

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs in the absence of the Minister of National Defence. Will the Minister confirm to the House that the Priorities and Planning Committee of Cabinet has given the green light to the Navy to purchase nuclear powered submarines? Why are we bothering to have a White Paper on national defence policy if all of the major decisions have been made?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

FRIGATE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, will the Secretary of State for External Affairs assure the House that in the event that the Government of Canada decides to acquire nuclear powered submarines that decision will not affect the frigate program which was announced by the previous Liberal administration?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the defence policy of the Government of Canada is now being guided by a review which is some 16 years out of date. It is called "Defence Policy in the 1970s". I know that the Liberal Party is moving nostalgically back toward that period, but the rest of the country is moving forward toward the next century.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): We intend to put in place a defence policy which will serve the requirements of Canada during the remainder of this century and into the next century.

There will be public debate. There has been public debate on foreign policy and defence questions under this Government to a degree unprecedented under former Governments. Under the Government of which he was a part there were no White Papers on defence policy. There was no public discussion of foreign policy. There is now a clear priority for foreign policy.

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DISASTERS

ANNIVERSARY OF CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR ACCIDENT—IMPACT ON CANADA

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the first anniversary of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl in Ukraine. I would like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare whether he is now prepared, one year after the accident at Chernobyl, to provide the Canadian public and the Canadian Parliament with the kind of information which I have been trying to get out of him for a whole