

Oral Questions

[English]

LOTTERIES

REQUEST FOR INTRODUCTION OF TAX ON WINNINGS

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is of the Minister of Finance. Each year in Canada millions and millions of dollars are paid out in lottery jackpots. In the United States jackpot winnings are taxable. Will the Minister of Finance consider introducing a tax on Canadian lottery winnings in the forthcoming Budget as part of his efforts to reduce the deficit?

Some Hon. Members: No, no, no.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, obviously there are a lot of lottery buyers in the House today. I will take the Hon. Member's question as a representation. At this point he knows I am not able to comment one way or the other on such representations.

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VISIBLE MINORITIES

GOVERNMENT'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF JAPANESE CANADIANS INTERNED DURING WORLD WAR II

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Multiculturalism. Today we learned in reports that the U.S. Congress is moving very significantly on three fronts to address the wrongs that were perpetrated against Japanese Americans during the Second World War. By contrast this Conservative Government has dealt with the situation in an embarrassing and certainly morally dishonest fashion.

Rather than continuing to circumvent the National Association of Japanese Canadians, and proposing yet another unilateral proposal that would be doomed to failure, I would like to ask the Minister if he does not agree that it is high time to sit at the negotiating table with the National Association of Japanese Canadians and once and for all reach a settlement that is going to be honourable and fair to all concerned.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Mr. Speaker, once again the Hon. Member is totally and absolutely misinformed, and I do not accept the premise of his question whatsoever. He should know, as I have indicated through my actions, that I have been in constant contact not only with the National Association of Japanese Canadians but with other Canadian Japanese organizations as well as other groups and individuals who are interested in this very serious matter.

The reason for delay, if the Hon. Member thinks there is a delay, is because the National Association of Japanese Canadians is having a study done by Price, Waterhouse and they want to have the results of the study before the Govern-

ment acts. If he doesn't believe that, he can ask the president of that association.

Finally, if I may conclude, Mr. Speaker, that Hon. Member and the rest of this House, and all Canadians, should be congratulating this Government because this is the first Government in 43 years which has taken any action.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

REQUEST FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, this Minister is misleading this House if he thinks the national association is in concert with this Government, because based on the—

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the Hon. Member did not mean that to be unparliamentary. Just a supplementary question, please.

Mr. Marchi: The Minister of State says he is consulting with Canadians. Can he guarantee this House and the national association that once he has completed all his consultations with all Canadians he will return with his findings to the negotiation table, that he will negotiate with the national association representing the national constituency of the community that this Government is attempting to address?

Mr. Speaker: This is very long.

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Mr. Speaker, I can assure this House and all Canadians that the commitment that this Government has made is going to be kept after total and absolute consultations with a broad range of Canadians. I also want to remind the Hon. Member that during the last previous administration, in the last question in this House of Commons the Right Hon. Prime Minister of today, when he was Leader of the Opposition, asked former Prime Minister Trudeau about this and he said there would be no compensation, there would be discussion, and the Liberal Party was not going to do anything for Japanese Canadians.

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FISHERIES

WEST COAST SALMON CATCH IN 1985

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): My question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. It pertains to the huge unanticipated surplus returns of salmon to the West Coast fisheries last year that the Department refused to be allowed to be caught. Losses to the industry show figures of \$30 million to \$50 million. Would the Minister undertake to launch a full public inquiry into the development and implementation of that fatally flawed fishing plan last year?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, as with all annual fishing plans the West Coast salmon fishing plan is the product of consultation between