

Oral Questions

money could be spent. I hereby declare solemnly that I will devote much of my effort to that objective.

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FEDERAL LANDS

YUKON—DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN LOTS WITHOUT TENDER

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Madam Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Indians Affairs and Northern Development, if his parliamentary secretary has finished briefing him.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: Before doing so, may I welcome the Minister of Justice back from hospital to the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: I hope he withstands the pressures of his constitutional responsibilities.

My question has to do with the disposition of federal lands in the Yukon. As the minister will know by now, a number of lots have been disposed of or are in the process of being disposed of in the Cowley Lake and Carcross road area to some rather prominent citizens, including the chief administrator of Yukon lands in the Yukon. This is being done without any public notification, without any public advertisement or without any call for public tenders. Is the minister aware of the circumstances, and what criteria were used in the exercise of discretion in accepting the applications? Does the minister know whether any public advertisement was made or whether any call for public tenders was made in the disposition of these several parcels of federal lands?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, I did make note of some of the charges made in connection with this whole subject matter which the hon. member for Yukon is raising. I asked my department for a complete report, which I hoped to receive before question period. I have not received it as yet, but I do expect it this afternoon. I will endeavour to reply to the hon. member in considerably more detail tomorrow.

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, since the right to acquire and own lands, as the minister knows and as the Minister of Justice knows having held that portfolio for a number of years, is the single and most important matter in the minds of Yukoners and the single greatest irritant to the population of the Yukon, will the minister give me his assurance today that he will instruct his officials to freeze any disposition of those several parcels of federal lands until he has conducted a thorough investigation with respect to the manner and method adopted in their disposition, primarily the question of public advertisement and public tender? Included in that full investigation, would the minister determine whether or not any conflicts exist with respect to the acquisition of public lands by public servants, and whether or not all laws have been complied with

respecting applications made by those public servants for the acquisition of federal lands?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Madam Speaker, I can tell the hon. member that prior to coming into the House I was advised in general terms that no favouritism was displayed. As I have indicated to the hon. member, I have not received the details with respect to the subject matter which the hon. member is talking about. When I do receive them, as I hope to do this afternoon or tomorrow morning, if there is any suggestion on the face of the material before me of any impropriety whatsoever, of course I will take action, if not identical with what the hon. member is talking about, certainly to correct any impropriety.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SOUTH KOREA—COMMUTATION OF DEATH SENTENCE ON KIM DAE-JUNG

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. All members will be thankful that President Chun has used his considerable powers and has commuted the death sentence of Kim Dae-Jung, former leader of the non-communist forces in South Korea. Considering that originally Kim was sentenced to death for activities similar to those of Canada's present Prime Minister when he was leader of the opposition in Canada's Thirty-first Parliament, and since Canada's past protest was really only a token one, I ask the minister whether Canada will join in the international campaign for Kim, perhaps by following the lead of 3.5 million Japanese who have signed a petition demanding that Mr. Kim be set free, not just spared from death.

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I would like to express the pleasure that I am sure we all feel at the commutation of Mr. Kim's death sentence which was taken following a motion by this House and following representations by this government. The international protest to which my hon. friend refers is not that of governments at the present time but that of citizens. The Government of Canada has no plans to join in such citizens' protests at this time.

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THE CONSTITUTION

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED RESOLUTION RESPECTING PROPERTY RIGHTS

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice whom I also welcome back to the House. Canadian Press reports this afternoon say that the Liberal Party is considering renegeing on a commitment given by the Solicitor General on behalf of the Minister of Justice last week to include property rights in the