

PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN APPOINTING FORMER MINISTER TO
CABINET

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Having asked him questions about an investigation carried out by a public official of the highest office in the land, at public expense, into a matter that, if carried out at all, should have been carried out by the Party; having asked him a question about a public investigation which we believe was most improper for him to carry out, let me ask the Prime Minister of Canada why there was not similar interest shown in carrying out an investigation into the background of the Member of Parliament for Burin-St. George's before he was named to the Cabinet of Canada for 10 days?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member for Yellowhead has just spilled the beans. He equates a public record in a registry office in Montreal with private tax information which is held private under the income tax laws of Canada. He is now suggesting that we should have had some of our exempt staff look into the files of the tax office of Canada. This is something I suppose he would have done.

An Hon. Member: Shame!

Mr. Trudeau: And maybe he did that with his Ministers before naming them. I did not. I presumed they were honest people. That presumption is not—

Mr. Hnatyshyn: With your record, that is hard to believe.

Mr. Trudeau:—that presumption is not destroyed because exempt members of my staff, who are hired as Liberals to perform a partisan function—not a function of the state, but a partisan function—let us not be hypocrites, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition is also Leader of the Tory Party. The Leader of the Government is also Leader of the Liberal Party. They perform partisan functions as well; both offices do. But looking into the tax files of any private Member is something we would not do, but something which I guess the Hon. Member for Yellowhead would do, if I can judge his question.

Some Hon. Members: More.

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[Translation]

AMATEUR SPORT

REQUEST FOR ERECTION OF INFRASTRUCTURES IN STE-FOY,
P.Q.

Mr. Dennis Dawson (Louis-Hébert): Mr. Speaker, I can see that the Hon. Members are rather excited today. My questions will be somewhat more gracious than the previous ones, Mr. Speaker. They are for the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport (Mr. Olivier). The Minister is probably aware

Oral Questions

that Gaétan Boucher won his third medal this morning, a gold medal in speedskating, in addition to the other two he won this week. Will the Minister consider the request made by the Fédération de patinage de vitesse du Québec, which has seven members on the Canadian speedskating team? Will he consider the request of the Federation to give the City of Sainte-Foy an artificial speedskating ring so that the Canadian speedskating team will not have to go abroad, namely in Europe or Lake Placid, to train?

Mr. Speaker, it is extremely important that we should encourage the recipients of gold medals which were won at an extremely reduced cost. It would be encouraging if, in 1988, we could have not only Gaétan Boucher, but other competitors named Daigle, Grenier, Thibault and Pichette—

Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Canadian Government and all Canadians, to congratulate Mr. Gaétan Boucher who has become the first Canadian amateur athlete to win three medals at the Winter Olympics. Gaétan Boucher becomes the first Canadian amateur to win two gold medals in the same Winter Olympics.

In reply to the Hon. Member's question, I can say that the Canadian Government and my Department are considering the possibility, first, of building an Olympic speed skating oval in Calgary at a cost of \$35 million, and also of building facilities in Eastern Canada so that Eastern Canadians can practice this form of sport.

In closing, I should also point out that Mr. Gaétan Boucher will receive the Order of Canada on April 11 for his achievements and the honour his achievements are giving Canada throughout the world.

● (1500)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for St. John's West for one question.

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THE ECONOMY

LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance of the Schickelgruber government.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: Oh, there he is; there is John.

Mr. Crosbie: That is what happened to the Reichstag in 1933.