

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ISRAEL—INTENTION TO ESTABLISH CITY ON WEST BANK

Mr. Ian Watson (Châteauguay): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Last week *The Globe and Mail* reported that the Government of Israel had dedicated a new town called Emmanuel on the occupied West Bank destined eventually to grow to a population of 60,000. Has the Government of Canada objected, or does it intend to object specifically to this new affront to civilized international behaviour, or will it simply acquiesce in this further example of anti-Palestinian racism on the part of the present Israeli régime?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, we have not, to my knowledge, made any particular protest about this settlement. But we have on quite a number of occasions expressed our opposition to the settlement policy of the Israeli Government. We have stated that the continuation of this action is a further obstacle to peace. And as recently as my statement at the United Nations General Assembly, I appealed to Israel again to reconsider its settlement policy.

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HARBOURS

FUNDING FOR MARINA PROJECTS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Will his Department, through the Small Craft Harbours Branch, be providing material costs for municipalities applying under the Canada Works Program for marina projects this coming winter? It is fairly important to the municipalities to know soon whether the Minister's Department will be providing these funds so they can go ahead with applications for winter works projects.

Mr. Nielsen: Of course they are.

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, I am happy to remind this House that through the Special Recovery Program of the Minister of Finance we have embarked in the Province of Ontario on a very major program of small craft harbour and marina construction. It was a dramatic increase of about 600 per cent for this year. Hopefully, during the next year we will be able to continue our programs jointly with the Department of Employment and Immigration.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

AMENDMENT OF INDIAN ACT

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Indian Affairs and

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Northern Development, may I put my question to the Acting Minister? When does the Government intend to introduce amendments to the Indian Act, and will the amending legislation now being prepared provide for retroactive validation of proclamations issued under Section 4(2) of the Act?

[Translation]

Mr. André Maltais (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, I think the Hon. Member has raised a very interesting point, and I shall take the question as notice. Next week I will be able to provide details on the subject, because the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has many pieces of legislation that are now being reviewed, and I think we must first specify the nature of the question if we are to give a responsible reply.

[English]

VALIDITY OF PROCLAMATIONS

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Madam Speaker, perhaps I can give the Parliamentary Secretary more details by referring him to the secret Cabinet document of July 7 from his Minister—

Mr. Nielsen: Another one? They are leaking like a sieve.

Mr. Beatty:—in which he recommended the elimination of discrimination from the Indian Act, with comprehensive legislation to confirm the validity of such proclamations. He recommended further that, even if amendments to such legislation were not passed, the subject proclamations should nonetheless be confirmed by statute to resolve any doubt in their favour. Can the Parliamentary Secretary tell the House why it is that when this document was written the Minister had already prepared a comprehensive reply to the Report of the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments dismissing the concern of the Committee over the validity and legality of those proclamations? Why, if the Government is totally satisfied that those proclamations are legal, did the Minister in a secret document recommend such retroactive legislation?

[Translation]

Mr. André Maltais (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, since the Hon. Member seems to be referring to a confidential document whose contents I have not been able to check, I think that in the circumstances, we should wait for an official and public reply that will be given in due course by the responsible Minister.