

Mr. Bruce Howard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I regret that I asked the minister if I could appear for him this evening. Ever since he made that interesting date with the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis) on December 13 I have been envious of him and have been looking forward to keeping it for him.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It serves you right.

Mr. Howard (Okanagan Boundary): Some of the comments of the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway are not entirely in keeping with the facts. I share with her the concern of all of us for the preservation of parkland in British Columbia, particularly in respect of that site to which she has referred. There has been no evasion of the truth, or secrecy. I would indicate to the hon. member that the lease was signed by the Harbours Board in respect of that piece of property over five years ago, so the government of Canada is not in a position to take action to do anything to affect such a lease.

Many representations have been received by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) in respect of the pro-

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posed development. Some, such as those put forward by the Vancouver parks board, are not in favour of the undertaking. Others have identified the proposed development as being imaginative and as an appropriate addition to the downtown establishment. The proposed development comprises a hotel, various types of living accommodation, shops, walks, boat mooring facilities and extensive ornamental gardens; the same kind of thing the hon. member has just recommended. The lease in question has existed for some years. Recently it was renegotiated to accommodate land use more appropriate to the locale.

In light of representations received, and in consultation with various members from the Vancouver area on both sides of the House, the Minister of Transport has been re-examining the whole question. Meetings are taking place currently and the House will be informed of new developments as soon as they occur.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Another sell-out.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.21 p.m.