

*Oral Questions***CANADA LANDS COMPANY**

SALE OF EXPROPRIATED MIRABEL LANDS

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Prime Minister. It has to do with Canada Lands Mirabel Limited. We have learned that expropriated land was resold at 30 per cent below market value against the advice of Public Works officials. In an article by Claude Arpin in *The Montreal Gazette* on Saturday, the former Public Works Minister is quoted as saying:

I went to see Brian Mulroney, and in 30 minutes I convinced him to get those fuddie duddies off my back so I could deal with this problem in my own way.

Does the Prime Minister recall that question? Will he tell this House why he permitted the former Minister of Public Works to do it his way?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, we have to start with the knowledge that tremendous injustice was done to the people of that particular area. The price to be paid by the former owners or the tenants was the level established in 1982-84, even though they may have purchased the property in 1985, 1986 or 1987. This was to allow every single member of that community to participate and purchase at exactly the same level. The same procedures were followed and they have all been reviewed. Everything over \$70,000 has been approved by the Comptroller General of Canada.

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. I want to give him an opportunity to clear up the confusion which surrounds this very serious matter.

Did the Prime Minister get the fuddy-duddies off the former Minister's back so he could appoint his cousin to sell off Mirabel lands 30 per cent below market value to Tory supporters? That is the question, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, two out of every three people in that particular constituency happened to vote Tory in the last election. They did so for a very good reason, because of the tremendous injustice perpetrated by the previous Government. The Prime Minister said to the former Minister of Public Works: "Install a system of justice. They have been unfairly treated. That is the procedure I want you to follow".

[*Translation*]

MIRABEL ISSUE—REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF SALE OF PROPERTIES AND LOTS

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister, and it is also related to the Mirabel transactions.

It was reported that more than 1,000 properties and some 60,000 acres of land were sold at close to 30 percent below market value. Why did the Government allow the sale of those lots at 30 percent below market value? Who made those decisions—

Mr. La Salle: You do not know the case! You do not know anything about that! I could tell you something about it.

Mr. Robichaud: Do not get excited, Roch! Who made those decisions? Who determined the value of those properties—

Mr. La Salle: It's dreadful!

Mr. Robichaud:—especially the lands which were sold to supporters of the Party?

Mr. La Salle: It's dreadful! I would be ashamed to talk about Mirabel if I were a Liberal!

[*English*]

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, let me refresh the Hon. Member's memory. It was the previous Government which perpetrated this chaotic situation.

Mr. La Salle: Right.

Mr. McInnes: It was an injustice to the people of the area. The Member for Joliette who was the Minister at the time endeavoured to commence and, in fact, completed a system which has brought equity to all of the people of that particular area.

[*Translation*]

INQUIRY WHETHER THERE WILL BE A PHASE THREE IN MIRABEL MATTER

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmoreland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, we have to ask questions of Ministers even if it irritates them. Are we going to see a third phase soon, that is the sale of some 60 farms and about 12,000 acres of land? Will this property be sold at market value or will it be given away to friends at special prices? How long will the Minister allow such a ridiculous behaviour in this matter?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to see that the Liberals who fathered the great Mirabel scandal—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mulroney:—where individuals, ordinary citizens and farmers were ridiculed and treated with contempt by the Liberal government.

Mr. La Salle: Shame!

Mr. Mulroney: When the Conservative government was elected, the Hon. Member for Joliette, who was then Minister of Public Works, was instructed by Cabinet to implement a program that will bring justice to the taxpayers of Mirabel.