

Oral Questions

EXISTENCE OF MEMORANDA

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, the Minister of Transport, as with other ministers in government, has an obligation to make arrangements which protect Canadian jobs and advance Canadian development. He has done the opposite. He is not the minister of transport for Japan; he is the Minister of Transport for Canada, and he has responsibility to Canadian citizens.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: He said that the question of re-evaluation was entirely something I invented. I drew that language precisely from a letter written by Stephens-Adamson to Mr. Jacques Auger, the acting chief executive officer and vice-chairman of the National Harbours Board, who indicated that that qualification or demand for confidentiality was imposed in his presence; that was the testimony of Stephens-Adamson. Does the minister have in his possession any internal memoranda from any officials of his ministry which call into question the decision recommended to him by the National Harbours Board before the decision was taken? If he has, will he publish these memoranda?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I have such memoranda which prove that I was on the case quite extensively for a period of a week or more. I asked the National Harbours Board to produce the reason the decision had gone the way it did. I did my job, which was to ensure that the Canadian company bidding on the project had ample opportunity to present its case.

I want to emphasize the fact that 53 per cent of the piece of equipment is to be produced in Canada, again showing that, even because of technology and timing a Canadian manufacturer could not get the contract, but nevertheless efforts were made to bring about the maximum work done in Canada.

REQUEST THAT MEMORANDA BE TABLED

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, perhaps inadvertently the minister is confusing this question more than need be. My question to him is simple. Does he have in his possession memoranda from officials of the Department of Transport which call into question the recommendations of the National Harbours Board? Does he have such memoranda and, if so, will he table them?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Not to my knowledge, Madam Speaker. I have memoranda from the National Harbours Board explaining why the final decision was what it thought it should be.

[Translation]

IMMIGRATION

INQUIRY WHETHER MRS. CONFINO-LEVI MAY REMAIN IN CANADA

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Madam Speaker, in the temporary absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration, my question is directed to his parliamentary secretary.

Could the parliamentary secretary inform us whether he is aware of the case of Mrs. Gisella Confino-Levi of Toronto, who was ordered by the minister to leave Canada because she had entered Canada illegally? She was asked to leave Canada voluntarily, otherwise a deportation order would be made against her.

Can the parliamentary secretary inform us whether the minister is aware of this case and, if so, is there any hope that this lady will be allowed to remain in Canada under the appropriate legislation?

Mr. Rémi Bujold (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, during the past weekend a major symposium on refugee status was held in Toronto. The minister and others attending the symposium were advised of the case of Mrs. Gisella Confino-Levi, and since Canada has a solid reputation in this area, the minister promised to look into the case as soon as possible and is expected to make a decision within the next few days.

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[English]

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM

INQUIRY RESPECTING INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSALS

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Privy Council. It is now approximately two years since a promise was made of very early action with respect to parliamentary reform. We still have not seen any proposals from the minister, although he made a very interesting speech to the Federal Lawyers' Club of Ottawa before Christmas. When will the President of the Privy Council bring in the proposals which were described as imminent about two years ago?

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the matter of parliamentary reform is under discussion among House leaders. We have already had a meeting. I have submitted documents to them, and I am expecting that they will come back to me with some proposals which I asked them to make. In so far as I am concerned I also have proposals to make, but at this stage it is at the level of House leaders. If the hon. member is in a position to say that his House leader is not interested in discussing this matter with me—and he certainly did not mention that to me; on the contrary, he seemed very openminded—then I am in a position