Oral Questions

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AS AMBASSADOR TO SCOTLAND

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could have the indulgence of the House for just a moment to point out that we have a very distinguished visitor in Your Honour's gallery in the person of Mrs. Ewing, a Scottish nationalist member of the United Kingdom parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacLean: Against that background, I would like to ask the Prime Minister a rather good-natured question. In light of the apparent imminent independence of Scotland, is it the intention of the Prime Minister to appoint the Secretary of State for External Affairs as Canada's first ambassador to Scotland?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think there are many people on this side of the House who would be prepared to volunteer for such a job. We are not suggesting that is the direction events will take. If they do, we have contingency plans, including my wife who is a Scottish nationalist.

SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR TO SOUTH KOREA—
GOVERNMENT POSITION ON COMPLETION OF SALE IN VIEW OF
NEGOTIATIONS FOR REPROCESSING PLANT

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In view of the strong protest made at Tuesday night's meeting of the External Affairs committee concerning the impending sale of a Canadian nuclear reactor to South Korea and precisely because South Korea has recently purchased a reprocessing plant from France which will give Korea the capacity to build a nuclear device, is the government determined to complete that sale without a further review of the wisdom of this policy, as advocated by many people in Canada, including the distinguished Canadian, General E. L. Burns?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): With respect, Mr. Speaker, I believe the Secretary of State for External Affairs answered questions along similar lines not more than two days ago.

Mr. Roche: Precisely because the issue was raised at the External Affairs committee meeting, I will again put the question to the Prime Minister. With respect to the trustworthiness of South Korea, with whom we will be signing an agreement, has the Prime Minister examined the reports by impartial international observers such as Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists, the International League for the Rights of Man and the World Conference of Religion for Peace that are highly critical of the Park regime?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, these are the kinds of representations that could usefully be made when the minister is in attendance before the committee.

[Mr. Lessard.]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR FUNDS FOR FRASER VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the President of the Treasury Board. It follows on an answer given yesterday by the Minister of the Environment to the hon. member for Fraser Valley West. She stated that the Fraser River flood control program has been seriously eroded by inflation. I can understand that. She further stated there is a plan to come to Treasury Board for more funds for that program. Will the minister give this high priority in view of the fact that a dyke broke yesterday in the eastern part of Surrey and the South Westminster district is facing imminent flooding? I have a supplementary question to the Minister of the Environment. Will she give this high priority when she receives the funds?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, evidently when we are dealing with emergencies like that one, we take the necessary steps if we have to pay for our share of responsibilities. As far as the total budget of this department is concerned as well as those of other departments, I hope the hon. member will inform the leader of his party that he is pressing us to spend more money.

[English]

AIRPORTS

CONCESSION LEASES—REASON FOR RENEWAL OF KEBEC RESTAURANTS' LEASE WITHOUT TENDERS BEING CALLED

Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that the Director of Airport and Field Operations has stated in writing that it has always been departmental policy to invite "general public tenders" on the granting and renewal of lease concessions at airports, can the minister explain how it was possible that Kebec Restaurants was able to have its lease at Dorval renegotiated and renewed on three separate occasions without any such tenders being called?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the statement is accurate as a general rule. Indeed, it was applied in those terms in this case. According to my information, the lease in question, hon. members will be happy to learn, was first granted in 1961. It was a lease for five year terms with subsequent options of two successive five year additional terms. That was the nature of the lease at that time.

[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REPORT OF CONGRESSMAN BEARD ON INTERPOL—POSITION OF SOLICITOR GENERAL

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I wish to pose a question to the Solicitor General.