

Oral Questions

about to negotiate the rights of citizens to come and be heard before a committee. That is an inalienable right. We are not about to negotiate the right of Canadians to amend the text that is tabled in the House through their Members. That is a fundamental right.

Where does the Government stand on the issue? Will the rights of Canadians be protected? Or does the Government want to use steamroller tactics and get this agreement through the House as is, at any cost? It has a choice, and now I want to know what that choice is.

[*English*]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, while the Hon. Member may not have confidence in the ability of his House Leader to negotiate something that is fair, reasonable, and protective of the rights of members of the Liberal Party, I can assure him that I have confidence in his ability to do that. Why does the Hon. Member not allow his House Leader to take up that challenge? I am sure he will be pleasantly surprised when he sees the final result.

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VISIBLE MINORITIES**INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE CANADIANS DURING WORLD WAR II—COMPENSATION ISSUE**

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for multiculturalism. The Minister is responsible for the redress Japanese-Canadians were promised by the Prime Minister in June of 1984. However, as offered in a number of meetings, it is no more than a community fund of \$12 million, ignoring non-monetary items. Does the Minister believe that compensation equal to 48 cents per Canadian citizen can possibly represent a fair compensation to Japanese-Canadians whose lives were disrupted and who lost all their property during and after the Second World War?

Hon. David Crombie (Secretary of State of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the Government's position on this matter was, of course, outlined in a letter to the National Association of Japanese Canadians. The Hon. Member has a copy of that letter.

I have since met with the association. We have agreed that we will continue to meet over the next couple of weeks. At that time we will discuss all the issues to see if there is any common ground.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, has the Minister considered the precedent of the federal Government's UFFI compensation program under which 53,091 individuals received some \$225 million to rectify a mistake the

Government made in its insulation program before ruling out individual compensation as part of the Japanese-Canadian redress package?

Hon. David Crombie (Secretary of State of Canada): Mr. Speaker, throughout the 20 to 25 meetings I have held over the last months on this issue there have been a number of historical analogies raised with respect to injustices experienced by other Canadians at other times. The Hon. Member raises for the first time an analogy with respect to urea formaldehyde foam insulation. I suppose, off the top of my head, I would have to say that it is probably inappropriate. If he would like to write me a letter on the matter, I am willing to give it further consideration.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INJUSTICES—AMENDMENT OF WAR MEASURES ACT

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is a supplementary one to the Minister responsible for multiculturalism. Will the Minister advise the House and the Canadian people if, notwithstanding the lack of a settlement with respect to the question of compensation to Japanese Canadians, he and the Government will proceed with an apology to Japanese Canadians and with changes to the War Measures Act?

• (1440)

Hon. David Crombie (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, that is a good question and it was raised the other day in my meeting with the National Association. We have agreed upon non-monetary items, the most important two of which are the acknowledgment of the injustice and the changing of the War Measures Act in order that the injustices will not recur. I was willing to proceed with those. We are proceeding with regard to the War Measures Act because there are other Ministries concerned with changes to the War Measures Act.

With regard to the acknowledgment of the injustices, or the apology as the Hon. Member refers to it, I have indicated that I was willing to proceed with that but I have been asked by the National Association of Japanese Canadians not to proceed with the apology or acknowledgment.

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GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING**AWARDING OF CONTRACTS**

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and pertains to the Prime Minister's buddy and campaign co-worker, Roger Nantel, who has been receiving approximately \$4,250 a day for each of the 1,000 days since the last election or, if you prefer, \$4.25 million in advertising contracts without public tender.

Does the Deputy Prime Minister not agree with me that this is a very expensive price to pay for putting the friends of the