

Oral Questions

GOVERNMENT POLICY

I should also make the point to the House of Commons that the record of this Government with regard to wartime atrocities is well known, as demonstrated by the appointment of the Deschênes Commission.

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT OBTAIN WARTIME RECORDS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I am not suggesting for one moment that some involvement in Austria's internal politics should take place. What I am asking is whether the Government intends to seek and obtain all of the relevant information, both from the United Nations and from Yugoslavia, in order to make a judgment about what, if any, course of action we should follow, either independently or in conjunction with other countries, given the very serious allegations which have been made over the course of the last number of months.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we think it important that all the relevant information be available to Governments and to others who must make decisions. Canada will certainly act on that understanding.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

PRIME MINISTER'S TRAVELS—UTILIZATION OF ARMED FORCES
HERCULES AIRCRAFT EQUIPPED WITH VIDEO TAPING
EQUIPMENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. I would like to get back to the matter of the Armed Forces Hercules that was carrying trailers with video taping equipment. Could the Deputy Prime Minister inform the House what justification there is for these flights, and is it normal for the Prime Minister to be accompanied on his flights by a plane carrying this amount of video taping equipment?

[English]

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Perfectly normal practice, Mr. Speaker. One thing the Hon. Member can take for a certainty, however, is that unlike the previous administration this Government does not use Government aircraft for political purposes.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I ask again what justification there is for having a Hercules Armed Forces aircraft—and you (Mr. Nielsen) are the Minister of National Defence—follow the Prime Minister, loaded with audio visual equipment and two little vans. Is there any justification, and is there a budget for this custom?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): That is the same question, Sir, and I again say that it is perfectly normal practice.

It is perfectly abnormal practice to have the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry, when he was Minister of Transport, and the then Liberal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and a third cabinet Minister, all arrive in the City of Winnipeg to attend political meetings within two hours of each other, in three different jets.

Mr. Ouellet: That is not true and you know it.

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[Translation]

TRADE

MEETING CO-ORDINATED ON SOFTWOOD LUMBER INDUSTRY—
GOVERNMENT'S EXPECTATIONS CONCERNING QUEBEC
PARTICIPATION

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and concerns the co-ordination meeting on the lumber industry. The meeting, which will take place next week in Vancouver, will include representatives from the ten provinces and people from the industry, both employers and employees. What are the Minister's specific expectations regarding the participation of the Government of Quebec, a major softwood producer?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member just said, we have invited all the Premiers and Territorial Heads of Government to delegate a minister to the meeting in Vancouver on Friday. We have also invited representatives from the industry. I am told that the industry intends to select its representatives on a regional basis. There will therefore be a representative from the province of Quebec. We have yet to receive an answer from the unions, but in any event they will be represented, although I cannot say whether there will be a Quebec union representative at the meeting.