

Privilege—Mr. Shields

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

GRANTS MADE TO EDMONTON AMUSEMENT PARK AND OTHER PROJECTS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. The Auditor General's report points out that not only was there this \$5 million special deal for Fantasyland in Edmonton, as a result of a small survey that he and his staff conducted, there were 14 other projects that were also approved, which he says were inconsistent with the Act, inconsistent with regulations, and inconsistent with internal policy.

If the Prime Minister is convinced that there has not been a rather fast and loose way of dealing with the rules, is he prepared to table this list of 14, with the explanations attached to them?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member wants the list of the 14, I suggest he ask the Auditor General. After all, he is the officer of Parliament and he is the one who suggested that there were 14. He must have identified them and I suggest that the Hon. Member take the opportunity he already has to ask the Auditor General directly for the list.

Mr. Riis: Of course, as the Hon. Minister knows, the Auditor General will not provide that. He considers them to be private. If the Minister was confident in his decision and his Cabinet colleagues' decisions, certainly he would provide these for the scrutiny of the Members of the House of Commons.

ELIGIBILITY OF EDMONTON PROJECT FOR GRANT

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister. He has indicated the tremendous boon to tourism that this provided for the city of Edmonton. Since the regulations make it perfectly clear that IRDP grants are not supposed to be for the development of tourism infrastructure, and most Members of Parliament know from applications by their own constituents regarding tourism infrastructure that they are told there is no money available for this type of use, will he explain how it was available for this particular project, particularly when it went against the recommendations of his own staff?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, I would be very happy to answer the Hon. Member. The department notes state: "It is noted that the application for assistance for this project was received on December 7, 1983". It goes on: "While the tourism aspect was dropped from the IRDP on November 9, 1984, the application was protected under the grandfathering provision of the changes".

It was very clear that projects submitted before December 9, 1984, were eligible for IRDP grants, and this project qualified under that grandfathering clause.

The Hon. Member is quite right that today tourism projects are no longer covered by IRDP. Those are the regulations, and we followed them.

Mr. Speaker: I must advise Hon. Members that Question Period has ended.

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QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE

WITHDRAWAL OF UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

Mr. Jack Shields (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege concerns yesterday's Question Period. In view of the statements yesterday by the Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis), withdrawing his comments accusing the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) of kick-backs, I have no hesitation whatsoever in completely withdrawing the unparliamentary comments I made yesterday during Question Period with respect to the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap. I wish also to apologize to you, Mr. Speaker, and to my colleagues in the House of Commons for this unfortunate breach of parliamentary tradition.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I want to thank the Hon. Member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields) for acting in the best traditions of this place and for extending the complete and unequivocal apology and withdrawal, which he has done.

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PRIVILEGE

STATEMENT BY MINISTER—PROVINCIAL COMPLIANCE WITH CANADA HEALTH ACT

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I served notice of a Question of Privilege. During a committee meeting on April 27, 1987, in response to a specific question from me the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) promised that he would provide Parliament with the report on provincial compliance with the Canada Health Act. My concern in raising the issue was that there seemed to be no federal accountability for breaches that were occurring in Alberta, British Columbia and other provinces with respect to user fees. On April 27, the Minister committed that he would provide such an assessment to Parliament.

You will notice in the Auditor General's report, with respect to the issues relating to health and welfare, there is a specific