

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Attacking the press again!

Mr. Mazankowski: I think that the hon. gentleman would be interested in what the Secretary of State for External Affairs clearly said and in what the policy is. I am sure that he will articulate that policy in a very clear and concise manner next week.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Vancouver East. I would just say to the Hon. Member that, given the time, I hope her question will be short.

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VISIBLE MINORITIES

CITIZENS OF CHINESE ORIGIN—PAST INJUSTICES

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. Last night on *The Journal* the Prime Minister stated that he wants to be remembered for his tolerance and justice toward minorities.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: More!

Ms. Mitchell: Yet this is the same Prime Minister who refuses to apologize and to redress past discrimination against Canadians of Japanese origin. His Minister responsible for multiculturalism has been prohibited by Cabinet from meeting to discuss the Chinese head tax.

Why is the Government refusing to meet with representatives of the Chinese Canadian National Council about past injustices against elderly citizens of Chinese origin who were subjected to legislated racial discrimination in terms of the Chinese head tax and the Chinese Exclusion Act? What will he do about this?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am going to surprise the Hon. Member by agreeing with part of her preface. I think that the Prime Minister is probably more sensitive to minority rights than any Prime Minister in the history of the country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: As a member of a minority group in Canada I am proud to serve under the Prime Minister. I am very proud indeed.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition laughs. Does he think that this is a joking matter? I think not.

This is a serious question which has been raised by the Hon. Member. Although I do not have details with respect to the

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specifics concerning any meetings, I do not accept the premise of the question that somehow there has been a prohibition placed on any meeting. I will take this matter as notice. In fact I am sure a response will be given to the Hon. Member by the Secretary of State when the Secretary of State returns to the House.

Ms. Mitchell: A quick supplementary question, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry. The Chair, as much as any other Member, is constrained by the time. The last question will be a single question. The Hon. Member for Papineau.

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RAILWAYS

COMPETITIVE LINE RATES—EFFECT OF CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport my question is addressed to the Deputy Prime Minister. He will certainly remember that Canadian railways saw the competitive line rates in Bill C-18 as probably the single most important threat to their continued viability. In order to deal with this concern the Minister should remember that the Hon. Member for Lachine, on behalf of the Government, introduced an amendment that would allow the suspension of the CLR, if necessary. Can the Minister now confirm that the transportation annex of the Mulroney-Reagan trade deal now totally nullifies that safeguard and renders the amendment of the Hon. Member for Lachine completely meaningless? What does the Minister intend to do about this?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the position of the Liberal Party has always been very clear. When it comes to dealing with transportation inequities it takes the side of the railways rather than the side of the customers. What this Bill has tried to do is to remove freight rate discrimination once and for all. One of the chronic problems that has affected the regions of the country has been high freight rates and tariffs. The Government has acted very effectively and responsibly on both those issues. I invite the Hon. Member to get onside and to start taking the side of the shippers for a change.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members will know that there are some unfinished matters that have arisen over the last day or so. I am prepared to hear Hon. Members at this point. I understand that the Hon. Member for Ottawa West (Mr. Daubney) wishes to make an intervention, and I will hear him at this point. I know that the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) will also be seeking the floor. I will, of course, recognize him, and there may be others.