

Oral Questions

negotiations, as he promised in December, 1984, rather than taking to Cabinet an order that would run roughshod over the sensitive concerns of this community?

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Mr. Speaker, without accepting the Hon. Member's preamble, I will say that the results of the Price Waterhouse study were not a big surprise to anyone. As a matter of fact, in preparing the options for Cabinet, the losses were taken into consideration. The Hon. Member should know that there is more to the redress issue than financial matters. There is a moral matter and, from a moral standpoint, this Party is doing the right thing. It is certainly not his Party, which wanted to do nothing at all for the Japanese Canadians.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, it seems that the malaise that has gripped the Government has now paralyzed the Minister as well because he knows that what he said is not true.

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Marchi: I want to ask the Minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member may disagree on the facts but he cannot accuse the Minister of saying something that he knows not to be true. The Hon. Member knows he is moving into the area of unparliamentary language and I ask him to withdraw it and simply put his question.

Mr. Marchi: I disagree with the Minister's interpretation.

Some Hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Marchi: I would like to ask—

Mr. Speaker: I ask the Hon. Member to withdraw his statement, please.

Some Hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Order on this side as well. I ask the Hon. Member simply to withdraw his comment and put his question.

Mr. Marchi: I withdraw, as you instruct me. Why did the Government break its promise of December, 1984, when it said two things: first, that it would negotiate; second, that it would do it with and through the NAJC? Why has that not happened? Why can you not have the decency to use this report as the basis for genuine discussion?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Member is being long.

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Mr. Speaker, it is very obvious that the Hon. Member is doing nothing but grandstanding. He knows very well that I, as the Minister representing the Government, have gone through the widest possible terms of negotiations and discussions with the Japanese Canadian community. I have put options before the Cabinet, and in recent days I have been asked by Mr. Miki, President of the NAJC, to meet with him to discuss the results of the Price Waterhouse study. I have accepted his invitation and I look forward to meeting with him and bringing any new evidence to the cabinet table for consideration.

• (1500)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am in receipt of at least one request for a question of privilege arising out of Question Period and at least one Point of Order also arising out of Question Period. I intend to invoke our precedents with regard to a different matter of privilege before hearing those matters and recognize the Hon. Member for Terrebonne (Mr. Toupin) on a question of privilege.

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

MEMBER FOR TERREBONNE—CHANGE OF POLITICAL ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Robert Toupin (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, I should like to tell the House about my decision. I will simply read the self-explanatory letter I wrote to the Prime Minister: Mr. Prime Minister, I hereby advise you of my decision to leave the ranks of the Conservative Party of Canada. You may rest assured that I made this decision after long and serious consideration. There have been and there are still basic and now irreconcilable diverging views between your Government, your Party and myself concerning major issues. Henceforth I shall therefore sit as an Independent Member for the greatest benefit of all my Terrebonne constituents.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Accordingly, the House will know that the Chair will find the appropriate way as early as possible to change the seating arrangement.

I am in receipt of a notice of a question of privilege arising out of Question Period from the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria). For clarification, the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) has submitted a question of privilege relating to yesterday which I will have to hear at the end of matters arising out of today's Question Period.