

Oral Questions

procedures and a deportation order has been made. Consequently, my department is bound by that order. However, in the light of the facts as I have studied them in that particular file, I can say that there is a procedure whereby the deportation order may be executed, but they may be able to arrange, on that particular basis, to be re-admitted under a minister's permit. I am looking into that at present.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ALLEGED APOLOGY BY PRIME MINISTER TO JAPANESE FOR ACTIONS DURING WAR—INQUIRY AS TO AID FOR JAPANESE CANADIANS

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question directed to the Prime Minister concerns the apology the Prime Minister made to the prime minister of Japan recently for the conduct of the Canadian government and Canadians toward Japanese Canadians during the last world war. Would the Prime Minister advise the House if he intends to apologize in Canada to Canadians of Japanese descent for the conduct of the Canadian government at that time? Also, will he advise if he has anything more tangible in mind than an apology, considering the decision of the Supreme Court, which dismissed claims by Japanese Canadians against that injustice?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member would be better informed for his question if he read what I stated in Japan rather than reading apparently the many reports and letters to newspapers on the subject. I never used the word "apologize." I never used "intention of apologizing." I explained that part of our history and its relation to people of Japanese origin. I was doing it in the Canadian embassy, on Canadian soil, to a largely Canadian audience. I was reciting part of our history. It is well known to everyone. It was not stated by way of apology. It was stated by way of explaining that relations between us have indeed improved since the days when they were not very good at the turn of the century and since the days during and following the second world war, when certain regrettable actions were taken. But the thrust of the speech, the toast I was making, was to indicate that Canadians of Japanese origin were indeed good citizens and had attained prominence in every part of Canada and in every part of Canadian life. I wish the hon. member would refer to that statement if he wants to ask some further questions.

● (1450)

Mr. Leggatt: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Prime Minister for asking me to refer to his statement, which I have in front of me. He indicated that Canadians had deprived Canadian Japanese of their civil rights during World War II. If that is not an apology, I do not know what is. The Prime Minister did not indicate whether he would do anything more tangible than use words to describe the injustice upon Japanese Canadians at that time. At that meeting, did the government of Japan or

[Mr. Cullen.]

the Prime Minister of Japan apologize to Canadians for the conduct of the Japanese government in terms of their treatment of Canadian prisoners of war during World War II?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member says he has the statement in front of him. If he refers to it, he will see there is no indication of an apology. There is a statement of facts which are admitted on all sides. I do not think it is beyond our capabilities as a country to realize that some things in the past were not very glorious. There is no great mistake in referring to it. If the hon. member would like other countries to do the same, he could refer to them. Maybe he will get them to recognize things in their past which are not very glorious.

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SUPPLY AND SERVICES

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF LEOPARD TANK

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Supply and Services. The Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of National Defence have announced the purchase of Leopard I tanks. Leaving aside the relative merit of the Leopard I tank, as opposed to other main battle tanks, and the impossibility of up-gunning the Leopard I, will the Minister of Supply and Services table the contract as was done with the LRPA?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, I see no objection in making available to any hon. member any contract we pass with our suppliers. However, each time we negotiate a contract I have to table it before the House. I think that the situation is thus more complicated. The hon. member may well ask my department to consult the contracts and he will get the full cooperation of my officers. If not, he just has to tell me and I will look into it personally.

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[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT—SUGGESTION MASSIVE SPENDING NEEDED TO SOLVE PROBLEM IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister confirm, as stated in today's *Ottawa Journal*, that last week he had been briefed by the Minister of Finance to the effect that massive federal spending will be needed to mop up unemployment in Quebec and Atlantic Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not know to what rumour or item the hon. member is referring. I would make it quite clear that the Minister of Finance and I from time to time, do discuss the economic situation of the country. We intend continuing bringing