

REQUEST FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN'S RESIGNATION

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, that is simply not good enough. The Minister should answer the question. It is no wonder that the Tories finished last in the Multifax ethnocultural poll conducted last week. It is no wonder whatsoever.

If the Minister cares about restoring the usefulness that this Board can mean for all ethnocultural communities, which is now wounded by the comments of its own Vice-Chairman, will he not do the honourable thing and ask the Vice-Chairman to resign, and initiate a full review?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. David Crombie (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member I hope knows, the appointments were made two years ago. There were 60 people on that Council, all of whom have made an enormous contribution, and I will be meeting with them next week. If anybody is wounding that Council or the good name of multiculturalism, it is the Hon. Member.

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TAX REFORM

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT TABLE PROPOSAL

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Finance. If the Government is truly committed to a fair and meaningful debate on tax reform, it must present a clear specific government proposal that can serve as the basis for public discussion. First, will the Minister table in this House the Government's specific recommendations concerning tax reform so that Canadians will know exactly on what they are to be consulted? Second, will the Minister undertake to hold televised public hearings on Canadian tax reform?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, as I said last week, the purpose of this exercise is to begin with consultation, not to make up our minds before we consult. As for specifics, I will repeat what I said last week. The purpose of the consultations and of tax reform is to improve fairness, to simplify the system, to encourage Canada's economic growth and to improve the balance across our different sources of taxation. There are a number of other objectives. Those are clear. That is what we are consulting on.

[Translation]

ESSENCE OF PROPOSED REFORM

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to many people since the Minister of Finance made his announcement, and they keep asking me what they are being consulted about.

Oral Questions

That is why I wish the Minister would at least let us know whether, as part of this consultation process, the Government intends to find ways to increase the number of dollars it is getting from Canadian families. In another words, will the proposed tax reform remain neutral about the sums of moneys collected from the average Canadian?

[English]

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has said on a number of occasions that most Canadians will have more money in their pockets and pay less taxes after tax reform is completed. That is the Government's point of view and that is its objective.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

PORT OF VANCOUVER—REPORTED BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND UNION

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. Last night the B.C. Maritime Employers Council announced that it had broken off talks with the ILWU despite the fact that the 30 day cooling off period has still nine days to go. Will the Minister appeal today to the Employers Council to resume talks with the ILWU to avoid an unnecessary and very damaging lockout?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's concern. I had the privilege of hearing the end of her statement a little earlier. I believe that the appeal has already been made by the Hon. Member. We are, of course, reviewing all our options in this particular matter.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER CONTACT EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): I will repeat my question to the Minister because he has not answered it. Will he contact the Maritime Employers Council today and ask it to resume negotiations?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as in all these difficult situations, we will look into the matter, analyze our options, and act accordingly.

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● (1500)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NICARAGUA—UNITED STATES PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and concerns U.S. support for the Contras. President Reagan says it is vital for America to intervene to prevent the establishment