

OERLIKON LAND TRANSACTIONS—STATEMENT ISSUED BY MR.
JEAN BAZIN

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. I wish to ask him whether or not the Government stands behind the statement of Mr. Jean Bazin issued on January 18 indicating his involvement in the land transactions by Oerlikon at Saint-Jean, Quebec.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any reason why the Government should stand behind a statement made by any Hon. Member, or any hon. person. In this particular case, the Senator made a statement based upon his knowledge of the facts. Together with Mr. Nantel, he brought this information to light in the first place. The dates that have been alluded to, both in the Prime Minister's statement and in his statement, are dates which we accept.

USE OF MINISTERIAL STATIONERY

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister should know that the statement in question has been issued on the letterhead of a Minister of the Crown, that is, the Leader of the Government in the Senate, and one would then presume that the Government would stand behind that statement.

Why is the Government of Canada, and a Minister of the Crown, using his letterhead and his offices to put out a statement of Mr. Bazin—presumably because they supported it—and at the same time carrying on a campaign of selective leaks aimed at the former Minister of Transport? What type of contradictory action is that?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure on what basis the Hon. Member can charge the Government of selectively leaking information.

Mr. Tobin: The Prime Minister admitted it last week.

Mr. Mazankowski: Perhaps if he has some knowledge, he may wish to impart that information to the RCMP.

As far as the other part of the question is concerned, presumably it was for the intention of imparting some accurate information for a change. That is something we have not been receiving from Members opposite.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF MACHINE-GUNS IN NATIONAL
CAPITAL REGION

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Solicitor General. I am concerned

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about the safety and security of persons within the National Capital Region. In the last four months we have had three incidents of machine-gun firings through legs and guard huts by RCMP special constables. This has been endangering innocent lives. I ask the Solicitor General if these dangerous weapons will be replaced, or will adequate training be given to their users?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that I share his concern. As late as last week I discussed this matter with the Commissioner of the RCMP. He advised me that they do in fact go under very rigorous specialized training. As a matter of fact, it comprises some 32 hours on the gun alone. He advised me that the gun is a safe gun, and it is used by many other countries. At my request he will review the matter once again.

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HEALTH

USE OF EDUCATION TO COMBAT AIDS DISEASE

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Last week the Minister was quoted in the media as having said that while there will be more money provided for research on AIDS, he was not prepared this time to provide any more money for preventive education. My question to him is this. In view of the fact that education is the only effective way of combating this very serious disease, how can the Minister justify such a statement in view of Canada's pitiful effort compared to the United States and Great Britain?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, when the Member says that public education is the only manner of combating the disease, that is simply not the case. It is one method. For example, in the same interview I said that \$39 million in five years would be used for AIDS, \$22.5 million would be used for research. Is he suggesting that is not a good manner in which to combat AIDS?

Additionally, the Canadian Public Health Association is putting forward ads. They have been given the responsibility for those ads. I understand from them that those ads are fairly close to completion and airing.

● (1500)

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, does the Minister really believe that research will be a more effective preventive measure than education? If so, we are in serious trouble. Will he not think about the matter and come to the conclusion, about which everyone is aware, that it will be five to ten years before research produces any results?