

Oral Questions

provision, if you will, so that the industry is not left high and dry like the aeronautic industry when a previous Conservative government decided to shut down the Avro Arrow?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, the connection drawn by the Hon. Member is totally specious, as he realizes. Indeed there is money available through the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, the National Research Council, and other agencies. If proponents of projects in the solar energy industry would wish to come forward, their application would be considered alongside that of anyone else's. Following 10 years of funding under the existing program, which was already grandfathered for a second five-year period, we are not sufficiently convinced of progress to the extent that special allocated funding should be continued in this area.

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTSTAPING OF MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER OF FINANCE AND
MANITOBA MINISTER

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Will he now confirm that an official of his Government secretly and deliberately taped the meeting between the federal Finance Minister and the Finance Minister of the Province of Manitoba? Most important, could he explain why it was done?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I understand that a young man on the staff of the Minister of Finance indeed taped, without permission, part of the meeting. It was improper and unacceptable. It was a mistake made by an over-zealous young person. I don't know that you would want to say any more about it than that. The Minister has acknowledged the error and indicated publicly that it will not happen again.

Mr. Murphy: The Prime Minister is correct in his answer.

REQUEST FOR GUIDELINES TO PREVENT RECURRENCE

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Prime Minister. He started his Government with a promise of honest and open communications. In keeping with that trust, will he confirm or promise that there will be guidelines for political officials so that this never happens again?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't introduce new guidelines to save my soul.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: You shall never see another set of guidelines around here. I may tell my hon. friend, as I think we all recognize, that there was a mistake in judgment by a young person.

Mr. Deans: A very serious mistake.

Mr. Mulroney: It was serious. I suspect that all of us at 22 or 23 years of age have made mistakes. In fact I know of some people in here who continue to make them, and fortunately we're forgiven.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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VISIBLE MINORITIESINTERNMENT OF JAPANESE CANADIANS DURING WORLD WAR
II—CONSIDERATION OF COMPENSATION

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Multiculturalism. Last week he denied in the House that a chair of Japanese studies was being contemplated as compensation for that community. However, he later admitted it in an article in *The Toronto Sun*. Now I have received reports that a million dollar institute is being created. Given the fact that he promised throughout the campaign that a committee including Japanese-Canadians would monitor all alternatives for compensation, why are these considerations being undertaken in isolation from the Japanese-Canadian community?

Hon. Jack Murta (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Mr. Speaker, I do not know where the Hon. Member is getting his information from. Certainly if I were him I would go back and check my sources, because his question was not right. I can only reply to him that the matter is under active consideration by the Government at this time. He will be one of the first people to know about the decision when the Government makes it.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that is quite correct. Nonetheless, in keeping with those comments, will the Minister tell the House today that he will maintain the promise to establish a committee? Will he give us its terms of reference and its membership, immediately?

Hon. Jack Murta (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will get the information when the Government has made the decision, and not one minute before that.

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INDIAN AFFAIRSPOLLUTION OF ENGLISH RIVER SYSTEM—COMPENSATION
SOUGHT FOR INDIAN PEOPLES

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, Great Lakes Forest Products has already been brought to the attention of the House today by my colleague from Thunder