

Oral Questions

Mr. Lumley: I think he should just broaden his scope a little bit in the selection of his statistics.

With respect to the second part of his question, the Hon. Member knows that I cannot divulge, by law, the specifics of any application. However, he can be assured that we will look at that application very closely in keeping with the recommendation that was made.

Madam Speaker: I will recognize the Hon. Member for Provencher on a supplementary.

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MULTICULTURALISM

UKRAINIAN CONGRESS—CRITICISM OF MINISTER'S SPEECH

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Madam Speaker, I would like to direct a supplementary question to the Right Hon. Prime Minister regarding the affair in Winnipeg, at which Ukrainian Canadians commemorated the famine of 1932-33 in which approximately seven million people died. On that solemn occasion his Minister of State for Finance made remarks of which the Prime Minister has now heard. However, if he had not even heard about those, he received a letter from the delegates in which they describe the Minister's statements as "inappropriate, condescending and totally lacking perception of the nature and tone of this Congress". In light of those words, and in light of the Prime Minister's constant commitment to the Constitution and the enhancement of multiculturalism in the Constitution, what will he do about those kinds of statements from his Ministers?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I have just had a word of explanation from the Minister. He tells me he was quoting from Sifton, a well known politician and Minister who was responsible for immigration from the European countries to the West. I understand the offensive quotation is one in which he would have spoken about the sturdy families, and stout women, and so on. I do not know who was being insulted. I know if I were told that my great-great grandfather came from France in homespun cloth and in wooden shoes, and that he was not very clean, I would not be ashamed of him. I am proud of my ancestors and I do not feel slurred because someone is describing how they arrived from Europe decades or centuries ago.

● (1500)

If the Hon. Member is trying to get this House to forget a recent slur by a Senator from his Party, on the Indians and about how they should be killed, that shows that is the name of the game.

Mr. Epp: A supplementary, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member for St. Boniface.

Mr. Bockstael: Madam Speaker, my question—

Some Hon. Members: Supplementary!

Mr. Epp: A supplementary, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Order. I have to be fair to all Members in this House. I have allowed the Hon. Member a supplementary question, and now I must go to the Hon. Member for St. Boniface who has been seeking the floor since the beginning of the Question Period.

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PETRO-CANADA

ANNOUNCED CLOSURE OF HIGHWAY RESTAURANT

Mr. Robert Bockstael (St. Boniface): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who is responsible for Petro-Canada. At Warren's Corner on the TransCanada Highway opposite the Royal Mint in St. Boniface, Petro-Canada owns a 24-hour truck stop service station and restaurant which has provided valued service to local residents, tourists and truckers for 30 years. Petro-Canada has announced the replacement of this facility with a simple self-serve gas bar without a restaurant.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McDermid: "It's Ours." Fix it up.

Madam Speaker: Order. I think the Hon. Member could save us all those details—

Mr. Andre: Axworthy, your Cabinet seat is safe.

Madam Speaker:—and go to his question.

Mr. Bockstael: Could the Minister obtain a commitment from Petro-Canada that proper tourist and truck stop facilities will be restored on this site concurrent with the reopening of the gas bar service?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I would—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: Build a post office.

Madam Speaker: Order. Every Member is at least entitled to be able to listen to his answer. I believe that is what the Hon. Member for St. Boniface would like to do, and I would ask the House to co-operate.

Mr. Chrétien: Madam Speaker, I am not aware of the particulars of this question. Of course, it is a decision for the corporation to make. I know that there are some people in Winnipeg who have been complaining about this problem in serving the local population. I will get in touch with the corporation and ask them when they are making changes to make sure that the public receives the best service possible from the corporation.