

Oral Questions

cabinet minister, would not know that we are duty bound to meet with the provinces every five years to review the friendship plan.

We are not only going to consult with provinces, we are going to go further, as we always have since we have formed the government, to consult with Canadians about this very important issue.

It is important that the pension plan of this country be sustainable. That is something that we are going to make sure happens.

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[Translation]

HIBERNIA PROJECT

Mr. René Canuel (Matapédia—Matane, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the acting prime minister.

In spite of the government's wonderful speeches, the budget has not put government spending in order. Within the natural resources department alone, the Hibernia project will swallow up \$172 million this year, not to say \$66 million more in interest free loans.

Why has the natural resources minister not taken the opportunity with this budget to dump the Hibernia project immediately, this money pit which will never be profitable and will only ever eat up hundreds of millions of dollars that could be better spent elsewhere?

[English]

Mr. George S. Rideout (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Natural Resources, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the member well knows we are an 8.5 per cent participant in the Hibernia project. It is a project that has been studied with clear indication that it will be a viable project when it is done. It will contribute to our energy security when it is finished.

[Translation]

Mr. René Canuel (Matapédia—Matane, BQ): Mr. Speaker, does the parliamentary secretary realize that the private sector's complete lack of interest in Hibernia confirms that this money pit will never be profitable? Do you admit that your government will have a lot of trouble handing it over to the private sector?

[English]

Mr. George S. Rideout (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Natural Resources, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, maybe we can do the math for the member opposite. We are seeing private sector involvement to 92 per cent. That seems to be a very strong commitment by the private sector to this project.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. Ted White (North Vancouver, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, here is another one of those isolated incidents for the minister of immigration. It is just one of three isolated incidents that are currently underway in my riding.

After a five-year crime spree, including an armed home invasion and drug trafficking, a Mr. Vu Van Li had his deportation order overruled by the famous Mr. Lam of the Immigration and Refugee Board who said that Mr. Li just needed to take anger management courses.

• (1155)

Will the minister not admit that irresponsible IRB decisions like this are putting the safety of law-abiding Canadians at risk?

Ms. Mary Clancy (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should have showed along with his party support for Bill C-44 which deals with the problems of criminality in immigration.

As the hon. member well knows, we cannot comment on individual cases. I know that the hon. member with his interest and his party will also support the reforms announced yesterday by the minister of immigration to the Immigration and Refugee Board to make it a better and more viable institution in this country, and we know we would have this party's support for this kind of policy.

Mr. Ted White (North Vancouver, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the changes announced yesterday by the minister look more like a fast track way to let more criminals into the country than to address the way of controlling entry.

Mr. Li was involved in an armed home invasion in 1989, assault with a weapon in 1990, and drug trafficking in 1994. Day after day we bring up isolated incidents like this for the minister.

When is the minister going to agree that rearranging the deck chairs on the *Titanic* of the IRB is not going to solve the problem and when will he scrap the IRB as Reform has suggested?

Ms. Mary Clancy (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, again, yesterday saw major reforms in policy announced by the minister to the Immigration and Refugee Board.

Today the chair of the Immigration and Refugee Board will be announcing further changes within the administration of that board. While there have been problems in this board, this is a good board and it serves Canadians well.

If the Reform Party and the hon. member for North Vancouver are so concerned about criminality it might have behoved them to support Bill C-44 when it was in the House.