

Oral Questions

Giovanni Rocca, who worked as a full-time paid employee for the Tory Party and went down to thumping defeat as a Tory candidate in the last election in Davenport?

Hon. Walter McLean (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I would think the Hon. Member would be extremely excited—

Mr. Boudria: I am.

Mr. McLean:—that a person who has not only contributed to the political process but who has also contributed to citizenship development in the area of the City of Toronto, such an important area of Canada, has been appointed, and he would be saluting him and wishing him well in his new responsibilities.

APPOINTMENT OF JUDGE SUZANNE WARREN

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence): Obviously he is not following the biblical policy, Mr. Speaker. Apparently the Tory policy is that they shall all be chosen.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. de Corneille: Many are called, and many are chosen.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1450)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Eglinton—Lawrence on a supplementary question.

Mr. de Corneille: What about the Minister's recent appointment of Suzanne Warren as a citizenship court judge who, at the time of her appointment, was nothing more than a full-time paid employee of the Tory Party and its chief organizer in Toronto? Isn't this a clear and unmistakable government policy of appointing Tory Party hacks, and proof that one more of the major election promises of the Tories has been broken?

Hon. Walter McLean (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, it surprises me that the Hon. Member would start off by attacking appointments of Italian Canadians, and then move on to attack the appointments of those with social work and educational backgrounds. The Government has a determination to see that citizenship embraces an holistic approach and that people with wide experience will be included in these appointments.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of nice questions for the Minister of Transport. Is it the intention of the Minister, or of the Prime Minister, to

announce appointments to the CNR board of directors within the next week or two? If so, about when, and how many?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it is possible that there will be some changes to the board of CNR. If the Hon. Member is making a pitch for his own candidacy, I will be very glad to receive his CV.

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, the job I would have liked has already been filled, namely, that of Minister of Transport.

REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Before the appointments are announced, will the Minister assure the House that he and the Prime Minister will depart from previous Liberal practices and Tory practices to date, re the appointments to Air Canada and VIA Rail boards, and restore some reputation and credibility to government appointments so that the people who are appointed, even if they are Conservatives, come from a cross-section of groups and regions of Canada to represent the real owners of the company? For example, there could be one or two CNR pensioners, one or two from the agricultural sector, one or two from consumer groups, one or two from shippers and receivers, and if only one from the legal profession hopefully one who has not been a Tory bagman but who has some experience in transportation law. Would he assure us of that?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I assure the Hon. Member that I will take his question as a serious representation.

Mr. Benjamin: It really is.

Mr. Mazankowski: As for his own fortunes, I am sorry he missed out on the plum job he was after. Perhaps he should get a new campaign manager.

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[Translation]

FINANCE

PAYMENTS TO QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the spokesman for the multinationals, the Minister of Finance. Yesterday on television, it was obvious that the Premier of Quebec was disappointed by the Minister's decision to give him only \$110 million when the Premier was actually expecting \$263 million. The Minister will agree with me that, after cutbacks of nearly \$1 billion and foot-dragging in the cases of Domtar, VIA Rail and the cartographic institute, Quebecers were expecting a lot more than that. Can the Minister tell us why the Government of Quebec is getting less than half of what it had asked for, whereas other provinces are getting more than half of what they wanted to have?