

Inquiries of the Ministry

procedures he permits a parliamentary secretary to function as an acting minister?

Mr. Trudeau: Perhaps I should let my parliamentary secretary answer that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that this is debate. We have reached the end of the question period, but I think hon. members would allow the Chair to recognize a few members from the different parties before calling orders of the day. I have seen hon. members standing for 40 minutes and I apologize to them for their lack of opportunity to ask their questions. This gives me an opportunity to remind members that if we are to spend 10 or 15 minutes on the first two or three questions, which admittedly may be important there is going to be some difficulty at the end of the question period. I will try to be fair to members and see a few of them before calling orders of the day. I might start with the hon. member for Edmonton Centre. I have seen him.

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HIGHWAYS**TWINNING OF TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY—ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST YELLOWHEAD PASS ROUTE**

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. Would the minister please advise the House why his department made the decision to twin the southern part of the trans-Canada highway in Alberta leading to Banff and to discriminate against the Yellowhead trans-Canada highway, which is the northern counterpart?

Mr. Speaker: I would think that that question, though important, might well be placed on the order paper. If there is urgency to it I will be pleased to return at the time of the adjournment to enable the hon. member to have it considered during the adjournment proceedings.

Mr. Paproski: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS**REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINT OF NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD—ACCESS TO MINISTER**

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister consider holding an inquiry into the complaint of the president of the National Indian Brotherhood that everything the Indians try to do is stopped at the civil service level?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will refer the question to the minister, and if he wants to inquire into the matter he will tell me.

Mr. Yewchuk: I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. In view of the fact the minister is absent today, would the Prime Minister consider establishing a

[Mr. MacInnis.]

procedure or structure which would provide the Indian Brotherhood with easier access to a minister when they have problems to resolve?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the Indians have wide access to the minister. He is out in the west meeting Indians today.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Battleford-Kindersley.

Mr. Alexander: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hamilton West on a point or order.

Mr. Alexander: May I bring a matter to Your Honour's attention. The hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth has been rising for the past two days with great anxiety. I was told yesterday that he said something about a disaster in Hamilton, and since I come from Hamilton I am hoping that Your Honour will give him an opportunity to tell us what this disaster is all about.

Mr. Speaker: I have every intention of recognizing the hon. member. I undertook yesterday to give him an opportunity, but for the moment I have recognized the hon. member for Battleford-Kindersley.

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ENERGY**POSITION OF GOVERNMENT ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR POSSIBLE NUCLEAR ACCIDENT**

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, I feel we can do with more matter and less argument during the question period. My question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that the Nuclear Liability Act is as yet non-operative, does this mean that the federal government is assuming any and all risks associated at the present time with any nuclear accident in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: I have some doubt about the procedural aspects of this question but the minister might be allowed to reply quickly.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I would have to make an investigation into the question but I hope to be able to respond to my hon. friend.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!