

Oral Questions

draft the bill after we have heard all parties in the House make their very valuable contributions.

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HEALTH AND WELFARE

RENTAL OF OFFICES ON ARGYLE ST., OTTAWA—
ASSOCIATION OF MR. McINNIS WITH OWNERS OF
BUILDING—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Privy Council. In light of the fact that Mr. Mel McInnis, the former special assistant to the Minister of National Health and Welfare maintained an association with Mr. A. I. Rosenberg who rented the Argyle Street building to the Department of National Health and Welfare and the following year went to work for Mr. Rosenberg, may I ask the minister whether he caused an inquiry to be made into this whole matter and, if so, is a report available to be tabled in the House?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure whether this question is in order.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacEachen: I have no hesitation in answering the question because the matter was first raised with me earlier this week by a reporter from the Toronto *Globe and Mail* who asked me whether I recalled a rental at Argyle Street while I was minister of national health and welfare. I told him that I did not recall any such rental. I subsequently checked and found that the whole matter, as is the normal practice, had been handled by the Department of Public Works.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacEachen: I suggested later to the reporter that he discuss the matter with the deputy minister of Public Works who would provide full details, and I suggest that course to the hon. member.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND LAND TITLES—REQUEST FOR
STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Can we have from him a statement in the House elaborating and, I hope, clarifying the position of the government in relation to aboriginal rights and aboriginal land titles prior to the summer recess of parliament?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): I hope so, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

AID TO AFRICAN NATIONS SUFFERING FROM DROUGHT—
MEASURES TO ENSURE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD TO
REMOTE AREAS

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In view of the persistent reports that many French-speaking countries of Africa are suffering from extreme starvation, what new action is the government taking or does it intend to take to bring relief to those countries?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in answer to questions on the same subject in recent days I have said that the Canadian government has approved the expenditure of several millions of dollars to provide food for the countries on the rim of the Sahara that are suffering from unprecedented drought. The Department of National Defence has provided Hercules aircraft to fly supplies to places that are distant from ports. I believe that the president of CIDA, Mr. Gérin-Lajoie, will personally be there to investigate the situation.

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SPORTS

OLYMPIC GAMES, MONTREAL, 1976—REQUEST FOR
STATEMENT ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS BY PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. In light of the fact that a motion presented to the committee dealing with the financing of the Olympic games asking for an appearance by the right hon. gentleman was defeated, would the Prime Minister consent to appear voluntarily before the committee to eliminate the confusion created by the contradictory and inadequate testimony of the President of the Treasury Board and the Postmaster General?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question asked by the hon. member is procedurally defective on many grounds. He is reporting to the House proceedings in a committee of the House. To that extent the question is clearly out of order. Perhaps the hon. member might be recognized to ask a question which would be in order.

Mr. Jelinek: In simple words, Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister consider clarifying to the Canadian public, either through this House or elsewhere, some of the obvious financial discrepancies that have come out of the Olympic bill?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the right hon. Prime Minister, but I do suggest to hon. members that when a bill is before a committee, and I appreciate that there might be difficulties in the consideration of the bill in committee, there is not much to be gained and no point in bringing to the floor of the House debates