

GOVERNMENT POLICY ON CONTRACTS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, is this a pattern? We have seen it across the river in the reopening of the Place Vincent Massey contract. Is the Government prepared, through pressure either from its friends or from foreign companies, to get into the pattern of reopening contracts which it has already signed?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is no.

Allow me to deal with the practice of conversations between members of the New Democratic Party and Mr. Trudeau. That, of course, is not a revelation to us. We know very well about that practice which led to the description of the organic union. It is interesting that those conversations which used to be among Parties are now becoming increasingly difficult, even within the respective Parties. The Leader of the Opposition cannot appear to get agreement from any of his members. The Leader of the New Democratic Party can only speak to his by long distance telephone.

Mr. Speaker: I should advise Hon. Members that there will be a question from the Hon. Member for York West, followed by the last question from the Hon. Member for Mission—Port Moody.

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VISIBLE MINORITIES

INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE CANADIANS DURING WORLD WAR II—REQUEST FOR COMPREHENSIVE TALKS

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. It has been almost three years since the Prime Minister promised that an honourable settlement to the issue of Japanese Canadian redress would be an urgent and important priority of the Government. Yet after three Ministers of Multiculturalism not only is the substance of any agreement nowhere in sight, but a formal process of talks has not even been established.

This lack of commitment to a very clear promise is an affront to the Japanese Canadian community. Therefore, when will the Government initiate a full and formal process of talks—not individual meetings here and there but full comprehensive talks—so that a fair and meaningful settlement will have a chance to come to fruition during the life of this Parliament?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the affront to the Japanese Canadian community was the position taken by the former Prime Minister, the then Leader of his Party, who refused to deal with this question at all. The Hon. Member knows that that matter is being pursued actively by the Secretary of State who will make the appropriate announcements.

Oral Questions

Mr. Marchi: Mr. Speaker, we are talking about a clear promise of the Prime Minister who has had neither the decency nor the respect after three years as Prime Minister to meet even once with the leadership of the National Association of Japanese Canadians.

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE REFERRAL

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, since the Government is hesitant about dealing with Japanese Canadian redress, would it not agree to mandate the Standing Committee on Multiculturalism, which has representation from all sides of this House and which, for this issue, could include one or two Members from a Japanese Canadian community, to work on and recommend a settlement which would be honourable to the Japanese Canadian community and do honour to this country?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get into comparisons of the attitudes which have been taken by Leaders of respective Parties. That is clear and on the record. The Liberal Party refused to recognize that an injustice had been done to which there needed to be a response. This Party and this Government changed that practice. The Secretary of State is pursuing the question and will make appropriate announcements.

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THE ECONOMY

WESTERN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION STRATEGY—SCOPE OF APPLICATION

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission—Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs in his capacity as Acting Prime Minister and is really a supplementary question to that posed by the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap through which, I believe, he sort of left the misconception, with regard to the western diversification initiative, that not all parts of western Canada would be brought into the process. I would like clarification from the Right Hon. Minister as to whether all of western Canada will be encompassed in this initiative. Can he tell the House at this time when this very important initiative will be brought forward?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, of course the Western Economic Diversification Program will apply to the whole of western Canada including British Columbia. The Deputy Prime Minister is co-ordinating activities on that initiative and will be making an announcement shortly.

One of the fundamental changes which has been brought to the country by the present Government is that it treats the country as a whole, the regions and the provinces, as equals. That is a change from the Liberal-NDP period. That certainly