

*Oral Questions*

did not provide me, as he did on other occasions, with previous notice of his intention to raise the question so that I could provide details relating to the representations he has made, or the representations made by the individual he has identified. I will look into the matter he has brought to my attention and report to him.

**Mr. Blaikie:** When there is a policy change you don't expect to have to give the Minister notice. We want to know why he has not acted.

## NAMES OF INQUEST WITNESSES

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister. He knows that an inquest has been called into the accident that resulted in the deaths of Privates Krosney and Laurendeau. I believe it is to take place on June 22 in Moosomin, Saskatchewan. At this point they are not able to get the names in the transcript. We have the testimony that was given, but not the names. Will the Minister extend his ministerial discretion, which he has made a big deal of, to releasing the names of those who gave testimony in those transcripts so that that inquest can have the benefit of knowing everything there is to know about what happened that day?

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows that the names were not provided because of the limitation under the Access to Information Act. That information was not to be made available because of the considerations of privacy. That having been said, Mr. Speaker, there is, indeed, a request which has been made relating to a coroner's inquest which was to be conducted by the provincial authorities. We have offered every cooperation in that respect. I have not received any requests from the coroner relating to the identification of particular individuals within the transcript.

● (1450)

**Mr. Blaikie:** You can't even get the transcript, never mind the names.

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## TOURISM

## STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO MINISTER

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (Halton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for tourism. As predicted, the tourism deficit rose again in the first three months of this year over last year. In fact it is expected to reach a staggering \$3 billion by the end of this year. It is obvious, Mr. Speaker, that the industry is in trouble and is suffering. Deficits are rising. This all contributes to unemployment. When industry spokesmen voiced their concerns, as they should, the Minister's answer was: "If the tourism industry gets more bitchy or complaining, it will be hard to persuade the Cabinet to continue this current level of funding". Can the Minister justify

making such a stupid and unproductive statement? Or is this his way to blackmail the industry and keep it quiet when it is in trouble? What is the answer?

**Hon. David Smith (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, that particular statement, which I think was taken out of context, had to do with some complaints about the price of gasoline in this country and the effect of that on tourism. The simple fact of the matter is that the price of gasoline in this country results from an agreement which we have with the oil producing provinces. We fought long and hard to get the best deal we could for the Canadian consumer, and we got that deal.

I do not believe it is reasonable to think that that agreement is going to be ripped up because of its impact on tourism. I might point out that the first three months, January, February and March, in any year, are always the most difficult months for us because of the weather, and the Hon. Member knows that full well.

## PROVISION OF FUNDS TO ONTARIO

**Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South):** Mr. Speaker, that is a cop-out if I ever heard one. An election was fought on 18 cents a gallon, and you are the ones who raised the price of gasoline. Everyone knows that in Canada. We also know that in the tourism industry the problem is over-taxation, purely and simply, particularly on gasoline and alcohol. If the Minister had any clout at all in cabinet, he would have that tax lowered or knocked off completely.

There is a subagreement between Ottawa and the Province of Ontario which has been sitting on the desk of the other Minister since 1980. It was for \$100 million, since reduced to \$60 million. Can the Minister use some kind of clout and get that money to the province so it can spend it properly and increase tourism in this country? Some 85 per cent of tourism comes into this country by car. Will the Minister get that agreement signed and get that \$60 million to the Province of Ontario which represents one-third of our tourism market?

**Hon. David Smith (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, with regard to the first point of the Hon. Member on the price of gasoline, I would tell him that I saw my good friend, the Hon. Member for Rosedale, on City TV on Sunday night and heard him state that the position of the Conservative Party was still to move toward world prices for oil in this country.

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** They are above world prices now.

**Mr. Smith:** That is not the position of this side of the House.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Smith:** I seem to have touched a raw nerve, Mr. Speaker. With regard to an agreement with Ontario, yes, we have worked toward one, and we hope to have one before long.