

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FRANCE—FORCED ABANDONMENT OF CANADIAN FORCES
BASE AT MARVILLE—INQUIRY AS TO COMPENSATION

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has Canada ever received compensation from France in respect of our being kicked out of Marville and, if not, why not?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have not received compensation and we are still pressing for payment.

FRANCE—SUGGESTED EFFORT TO OBTAIN COMPENSATION IN
CONNECTION WITH "GREENPEACE III" INCIDENT

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, does the Secretary of State for External Affairs intend to seek reimbursement of \$12,000 from France to recoup the fee for bringing the *Greenpeace* back to Canada?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, not specifically, but we are seeking compensation from France for the damage done to Mr. McTaggart's eye.

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PERFORMING ARTS

FREEZING OF GRANTS TO ARTISTIC ORGANIZATIONS—
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION—SUGGESTED TRANSFER OF
OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH GRANTS

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. Is the minister in a position to confirm the announced intention of the Canada Council to freeze grants for established artistic organizations such as the National Ballet and, if so, will he agree to ask the council to reconsider this potentially disastrous decision?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, that issue is now before the standing committee. I think it is very important to recognize the point made by the Canada Council, that there is a limit to the extent to which the Canada Council can be viewed as the sole funding agency for established and existing arts organizations. What the director said to the committee is, I think, an important point, that the private sector's contribution to the performing arts in recent years has dropped. I am suggesting that performing arts organizations and others who support them should start looking to other places for funding as well.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that private donations are dropping off due to excessive government taxation, and in view of the fact—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: And the high cost of living.

Oral Questions

Mr. Hellyer:—that capital grants for the construction of new buildings are useless and such buildings could become mausoleums if at the same time the government chokes off those living, breathing organizations for whose use they are intended, will the minister make representations to his colleagues to the effect that some of the Opportunities for Youth grants or other funds be made available to the Canada Council in order that it may adequately support the existing recognized institutions of greatness and new entrants and individuals as well?

Mr. Faulkner: Mr. Speaker, I think it should be clear that we are continuing to support both for the very reasons the hon. member has mentioned. The question at issue is how fast or how rapid the rate of escalation of Canada Council funding should be in respect of established organizations as opposed to trying to respond to very new and exciting developments in the theatre such as the hon. members for Fraser Valley West and Sarnia-Lambton mentioned. What the Canada Council has said is that it wants to respond to these new organizations and will continue to fund established organizations to an extent more generous than any other level of government or the private sector, because it is aware of their importance, but that the rate of increase will not be as great.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, I have one final supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has asked two questions and I will certainly recognize him again, but I wonder how long this very interesting cultural debate should be continued when so many members are still seeking the opportunity to ask questions. The hon. member for Trinity will be recognized for a last, living, breathing supplementary.

Mr. Hellyer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that no artistic or other organization can continue with frozen grants in current dollars with the 10 per cent inflation rate, could the minister explain what it is about the Canadian mentality which, all too often, at the very moment when Canadian organization reaches the threshold of greatness, the bureaucratic hatchet is applied in a sadistically destructive way?

● (1210)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member asks a supplementary that invites the minister to make a statement which I am afraid could not be made before we reach the end of the question period.

Mr. Hellyer: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, this is absolutely fundamental. We build in Canada over a period of 25 years an organization from the grassroots that reaches the point where Canadians can be very proud of it. It can travel anywhere in the world and is recognized as being on the threshold of greatness. Why is it that someone always comes along with a hatchet?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggan.