

*Oral Questions*

opportunity to invite Hon. Members to visit the site and see its potential.

• (1150)

With your permission, Madam Speaker, while I am on my feet I would like to answer a second question that the Hon. Member put to me yesterday.

**Madam Speaker:** I do not think I can allow that.

**Mr. Fennell:** Madam Speaker, I have made my point on Mirabel already today.

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

## REQUEST THAT NATIONAL PARK BE CREATED

**Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario):** Madam Speaker, what the Government is doing is concentrating all the entertainment for Ontario right in downtown Toronto. Now, the Minister has 18,000 acres in close proximity to Toronto. Why does he not turn that into a national park which could be used by all Ontarians, and get people out of Toronto into the fresh air?

**Mr. Gauthier:** Put him on display.

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, it is quite obvious that the Hon. Member does not want to know the facts about Mirabel; he only puts misstatements of fact in questions and does not bother to ask questions the next day. As to the question of entertainment in Ontario, I am really surprised that the Hon. Member gratuitously insults the Government of Ontario which has done a great deal to benefit its citizens by developing Ontario Place. I think there is room for both projects, and that is what we are doing.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

\* \* \*

## SHIPBUILDING

## REQUEST FOR ACCELERATED AID TO SHIPYARDS

**Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport and concerns the shipbuilding industry and budget allocations to increase shipbuilding and jobs in Canada. In Burrard Yarrow shipyards in Vancouver, over 500 workers were laid off recently. I understand Marine Industries, in Sorel, Quebec, has laid off 250 or more workers, and the same is happening in the Atlantic region. Since the Government has money in the budget for shipbuilding as a job-creation and industrial strategy, why can this not be speeded up with money made available quickly for these industries rather than spending over \$1 million in unnecessary unemployment insurance payments for these people? What is going to be done about this, how quickly can this money get out to keep those shipyards open and workers working?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, there must be a misunderstanding on the part of my

hon. friend because what she suggests is exactly what is happening. In the announcement made in Montreal the other day it was said there would be 11 new ships, the upgrading of three other ships, and the acquisition of a number of small craft for the Department of Transport. If my hon. friend cares to note, the budget involved is \$780 million and in that amount there is an acceleration to the value of \$185 million. So what she seems to want is exactly what is going to take place.

As far as my Department is concerned, these were Coast Guard ships and they were supposed to be built two, three, four, five years from now. There is an acceleration of this program now, particularly for the benefit of workers in the different shipyards of the country. I have seen a distribution on a national basis and I will be glad to send a copy of that to my hon. friend. But what she has in mind is served by the announcement made the other day.

## LETTING OF CONTRACTS FOR FRIGATE PATROL VESSELS

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. As he knows, there has been considerable speculation in Saint John, New Brunswick, about the Government's handling of the contract for the Canadian Frigate Program. Has the Government made any decision yet about the letting of contracts for this major shipbuilding program? Are in fact any shipyards specifically not being considered for those contracts? When does the Minister anticipate a decision will be made on the letting of these contracts?

**Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence):** Madam Speaker, I think as far as the Frigate Program is concerned it is well known that the responsibility of my Department was to make a very objective evaluation of the proposals from both contractors and then present them to the Cabinet Committee at the appropriate time. I hope to be able to do that in the middle of the month of May, with a view to getting a decision on contracts at the end of June.

\* \* \*

## PUBLIC SERVICE

## EMPLOYMENT OF NATIVE PEOPLE

**Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. According to the federal-provincial relations office in a report to Treasury Board for the fiscal year 1981-82, it is planned that starting in 1982-83 referrals of candidates qualified for the types and levels of positions within the federal-provincial relations office will be made available to the Department of Indian Affairs on an ongoing basis by the Public Service Commission. I am wondering why there is no system recruitment policy being pursued by the Treasury Board, why there is no Indian involvement in employment selection boards, and