

*Oral Questions*

● (1140)

[English]

**MULTICULTURALISM**DISCONTINUANCE OF "TRADITIONS CANADA" DESK  
CALENDARS

**Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton North):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Multiculturalism. In a letter which I received from the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, the president, Dr. Goldbloom, writes:

In 1980, money from the Government of Canada... made possible the sending of Traditions Canada (a desk calendar) without charge to a certain number of individuals and institutions, but such is no longer the case.

Could the minister inform the House how the government can reconcile the policy of spending vast sums of money on advertising their ideas of Canada in various publications, on the one hand, while on the other it takes away from the council funds for a publication which informs the general public of the rich diversity of Canada in many cultures and communities?

**Hon. Jim Fleming (Minister of State, Multiculturalism):** Madam Speaker, I would be pleased to look again at the situation the hon. member and former minister brings to my attention. I would remind him that the budget in multiculturalism, which he froze during his tenure, has recommenced and thus a number of important newspapers communicating with various of our communities where people are not easily fluent in English or French—in either of the two official languages—are now being assisted. Frankly, in a time of restraint it was felt there was a religious base to some degree to the very worth-while calendar put out, that it was a very expensive product which was not massively distributed because of its cost, and therefore it had some exclusivity to it. But I will certainly look at the question again to see if that is the best way to spend the money.

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**ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

## LOCATION OF SERVICE BUREAU

**Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton North):** My supplementary is for the Minister of Supply and Services, Madam Speaker. On September 23 the minister announced the October opening of a number of federal service bureaux to help Canadians gain access to government information and services—shades of Information Canada. On October 1 my office contacted the minister's office for the location of the first service bureau, which is to be located in Edmonton, according to the minister's statement. No one knew of the location at that time and we were assured that as soon as a decision was made my office would be informed. Today is October 17 and I still have no news. Can the minister now tell the House where the first bureau is located, whether it is to be in my constituency, or exactly where in Edmonton it is to be located?

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services):** Madam Speaker, I am not in a position today to advise the hon. gentleman where specifically the office will be located. I thought the hon. gentleman would be pleased at the fact that I chose his city as the first location for a service to the public office.

I would also like to disabuse the hon. member of the opinion he seems to hold that this is "shades of Information Canada". The service to the public offices are going to be reactive offices; they are going to be much more similar to the hon. gentleman's own constituency office than anything that had been dealt with by Information Canada.

**Mr. Paproski:** Duplication of services!

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**ENERGY**

## ENERGY POLICY—ACCEPTANCE BY WESTERN CANADA

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Earlier in the question period we were treated to what most western Canadians believe is the attitude of the present government. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said that Canadians would be happy with his energy policy and western Canadians would be happy with his energy policy. It is comments such as that which fuel the separation movement in western Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh!

**Mr. Hawkes:** I am wondering if the minister would like to take the opportunity in question period to assure us that he and his government are not acting in every way possible to fuel that separation movement and to push western Canada out of Canada.

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I regret if the translation may not have been quite accurate. I recall I answered the question in French, and what I said was that when the energy policy comes out I am sure it will be a policy well received by all Canadians, including western Canadians, who I believe are Canadians like everybody else. I do not know if the hon. member agrees with that but it is the view of this side of the House anyway.

As to the fuelling of separatist feeling or division, I have heard it talked about a lot in western Canada by a great many people lately but I would say those feelings have not been fuelled by this side of the House.

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

**Mr. Hawkes:** Madam Speaker, those of us on this side of the House who live in that region face that every day and it is that attitude and the kind of comments made by the Minister