

Oral Questions

eral proposal was accepted unanimously by the provinces at the April conference.

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[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

PROPOSED YOUTH RESOURCES PROGRAM—STATEMENT
BY DEPUTY MINISTER—POSITION OF MINISTER

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Would the minister explain the public comment by his Assistant Deputy Minister for Indian Affairs that power-hungry Indian politicians might sabotage the proposed youth resources program of his department—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair would like to suggest to the hon. member that there must be some way to ask the question other than in those terms. The rule is clear. I have tried, in any event, to bring to the attention of hon. members, not always successfully, that questions asked in the House during the question period should not relate to statements made outside the House by deputy ministers, ministers or members. To import such statements into questions in the House is irregular and has been so recognized for a long time. The hon. member might like to ask the question in some way other than by making direct reference to a statement made by an official outside this chamber.

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister say whether the recent statement by his Assistant Deputy Minister had ministerial approval?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): I can answer the question, Mr. Speaker, even though it is hardly acceptable. I think that the statement of my Assistant Deputy Minister on this matter is very realistic.

We have set up a new and very effective program and, of course, we cannot satisfy everybody. Some leaders would like to distribute the money themselves, instead of the department. We come across situations like that every day and we try to accommodate everyone, but we do not have enough money to meet everybody's needs.

[English]

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Would the minister say what his response is now to the request of the executive of the National Indian Brotherhood that his Assistant Deputy Minister's statement has so impaired his credibility with the Indian organization that he should immediately tender his resignation?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, first of all I should like to make a remark concerning the first part of the question. There are people who are power-hungry, even in this House, and who do not have it; the phenomenon is quite natural.

[Mr. Lalonde.]

With regard to the second part of the question, I would say, Mr. Speaker, that I trust the Assistant Deputy Minister wholeheartedly. I do not deplore the fact of having someone who can express his views and discuss them. It is extremely difficult to be Assistant Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, but I am pleased to have a very good one.

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[English]

NATIONAL CAPITAL

POSSIBILITY OF USE OF GREEN BELT LANDS FOR
INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the urgent need for industrial land in the Ottawa-Carleton region, can the minister tell us whether the National Capital Commission or the government is considering embarking on a policy to permit the sale or long-term lease of lands within the green belt or bordering this area for industrial purposes?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the National Capital Commission is considering that and I have not had a report from them, but I certainly would not consider it.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—REPORTED DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO
CANADIAN OFFICERS ATTACHED TO CANADIAN ELEMENT
IN CONTROL COMMISSION

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Secretary of State for External Affairs is able to provide the House and the country with a report on the disappearance of two Canadian officers attached to the Canadian observer group in the ICCS and assure the House that everything is being done to ensure their safety?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, these two officers were engaged in one of the customary activities of the ICCS. They were in contact with the Viet Cong. They are perfectly safe and arrangements are being made for their return to headquarters.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): If one of these customary activities consists, as I understand, of showing the flag, why were these two Canadian officers not accompanied by representatives of other nations on the ICCS? If they were out there alone, which flag were they showing?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I think that was just a term of art. These two officers were engaged in an activity that I think was very useful as part of the functions of the ICCS, namely, making contacts with the two Vietnamese parties.