

My supplementary question was going to be directed to the Minister of National Revenue, but in his absence maybe the Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport can do me a favour and pass on my question to that Minister.

Is that Minister prepared to testify before the inquiry and, if so, would he be willing to inform the Justice of his desire to do that?

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth) and Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, if there is anything that has been quite clear since the beginning of these incidents, it is that the Ministers of the Canadian Government have been up front and frank. All the information we have has always been given, whether or not we were asked to testify. That has never been an issue for us. We put out all the information we had in all circumstances. That has always been very clear.

On the issue of sinking to new lows, I think my hon. colleague has just won a few prizes himself. He has certainly won a bronze medal in the area of sinking to a new low in criticizing and partisanship.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POLICY ON SPORTS CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and is a follow-up to a question I asked on Tuesday of the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport.

Yesterday, despite the clear admonition of the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport, it became very clear that U.S. golfer Curtis Strange and others who are here to compete in the Canadian Open are completely unrepentant about travelling to South Africa to prop up the regime there. Mr. Strange says that he does not care about the politics of apartheid.

Will the Minister make it absolutely clear to Curtis Strange and these other golfers that regardless of what they think the people of Canada care about ending the system of apartheid? Will Canada enforce the UN register, and will the Minister take this opportunity to outline the long awaited policy on sports contacts with South Africa?

Oral Questions

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question put by the Hon. Member. It is a matter of concern to us.

I will certainly use this opportunity to make clear the views of the Government of Canada with respect to apartheid to any professional athletes. There is a distinction between making our views clear and having a means by which we can affect their behaviour in Canada.

We are near the end of a process of working out a detailed policy I hope to be able to announce next week, which will involve co-operation with professional athletic organizations in Canada and the sponsors of some of these sporting events, to ensure that we are able to give the maximum effect possible to Canada's opposition to apartheid.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, last year the Minister, along with the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport, made a very clear commitment to the international community that loopholes which allow South African citizens travelling on foreign passports to come to Canada to compete would be plugged.

Will the Minister not complete the promise made then and actually provide some substance rather than just good wishes?

• (1500)

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we intend to do that. As I indicated a moment ago in the House, we expect to have a detailed policy which I will be able to announce some time next week. I am not sure it is within our power to deal with all of the loopholes which might exist. Certainly, every loophole which we can close we shall close.

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TRANSPORT

PROSECUTION OF ROUTE CANADA

Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice and concerns Route Canada which is the former trucking arm of Canadian National and formerly employed 3,500 people.