

Oral Questions

actually do the logging, should be accommodated in some fashion.

If that is agreeable to the company and to the Government of British Columbia, it is certainly agreeable to me.

Mr. Broadbent: Good answer.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

FORMER ENVIRONMENT MINISTER'S LIMOUSINE EXPENSES

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. It continues to pursue the habits of his well travelled colleague, the Minister of State for Transport.

After Easter in Paris, the former Minister flew to Stockholm, Sweden, where she spent a half day at meetings, attended a cocktail party, a lunch, and a ballet.

Does the Minister agree, according to documents obtained through the Access to Information Act, that the limousine expense of \$1,412.35 for a half a day's work, the ballet, and three days vacation, should be paid by the taxpayers?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has based her question on information obtained yesterday or the day before through the Freedom of Information route.

Since that time I have made available to the media, to her Leader and to other Leaders in the House, a reconstructed schedule of the activities—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: Reconstructed? How about invented?

Mr. Riis: You were doing so well, Tom.

Mr. McMillan: —the now Minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

● (1440)

Mr. McMillan: Much of the controversy is based on the very skeletal schedule, which was—

An Hon. Member: It was skeletal, all right.

Mr. McMillan: —the official agenda of the then Minister of the Environment. I had put together, based on what information has been made available to me by my Department and by the Minister herself, all information surrounding the many

activities in which she was engaged during the trip in question—

Mr. Axworthy: Shopping, movies, and so on.

Mr. McMillan: —that were not reflected in the original agenda. I suggest that the Hon. Member go back to the drawing-board and rephrase her question on the basis of more up to date information.

HEALTH MINISTER'S LIMOUSINE BILL

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I certainly will rephrase my question. How can the Minister justify a four-day Swedish junket at taxpayers' expense by the Minister of State for Transport at the same time as the Minister of National Health and Welfare, who was in Sweden to sign the Canadian-Swedish agreement on social security, incurred a total limousine bill of \$113, in contrast to the \$1,412 limousine bill of the Minister of State for Transport? Can he justify that?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Broadbent: Jake is in trouble now.

An Hon. Member: Cheap Jake!

Mr. McMillan: —the Hon. Member has referred to a very busy schedule of official Government business—

Mr. Ouellet: Where?

Mr. McMillan: —of the Hon. Minister of State for Transport, the former Minister of the Environment, as a junket, when in fact her trip included bilateral meetings, multilateral meetings, international signings—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McMillan: —informal discussions, environmental briefings and—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McMillan: —tours of environment-related plants in Sweden, in Paris, and elsewhere. I suggest to her—

Some Hon. Members: More, more!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Fulton: Well done, Tom.

An Hon. Member: Give him a chance.

Mr. Deans: Why is she doing this to you?

Mr. Speaker: I have the feeling that no one is listening to the answer, in terms of the noise.

Some Hon. Members: We are.