

*Oral Questions***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

TAIWAN—CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of State for External Affairs, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. The Minister of State for External Affairs has stated that the Government's policy is not officially diplomatically to recognize Taiwan. Yet the Minister of State for Multiculturalism said yesterday: "Any Cabinet Minister should be able to appear at events organized by supporters of Taiwan".

This represents an obvious and serious faux pas in the policy of the Government.

Mr. Crosbie: Never mind the speeches.

Mr. Marchi: How does the Deputy Prime Minister reconcile the official line, as articulated by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, with the attitude of the Minister of State for Multiculturalism who recently authorized the Minister of National Revenue to attend the celebration of Taiwan's National Day?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, it seems to have been overlooked by the questioner that the Member for Glengarry-Pre-scott-Russell, the Member for Richmond Wolfe, and the Senator for De la Valliere are all members of his Party and all are participating in that trip to Taiwan.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Didn't he get invited?

Mr. Crosbie: Where is Boudria?

Mr. Marchi: Mr. Speaker, how the Government of Taiwan spends its money is none of my damn business.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Siddon: He said it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Member has a question, I am sure.

Mr. Marchi: I am concerned about the policy of this Government, not that of the Government of Taiwan.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, how does the Deputy Prime Minister reconcile the difference in policy? Where does he draw the line with respect to ministerial discretion in a very important and delicate foreign policy issue? What is the policy, who is in charge, and where is the consistency?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the policy of the Government vis-à-vis the Chinese Government was very eloquently, ably, and fully stated by the Prime Minister in response to questions that were put to him at his press conference last Friday morning.

Mr. Hovdebo: Not in the House.

Mr. Nielsen: In the event that the Member did not view that press conference, or in the event that he is not up to date, I might point out to him that the policy being followed by this Government with respect to mainland China is the same as the policy of the Government which he supported when it was on this side of the House.

* * *

LABOUR CONDITIONS

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. No doubt the Minister was enthusiastic about last Friday's announcement of the national unemployment rate dropping to 10.1 per cent, the lowest level in the last three years. Can the Minister tell us what steps the Government will be taking during the next few months in order to reduce the unemployment rate to an even lower level?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, indeed, as the Hon. Member has pointed out, the unemployment rate came down last Friday to 10.1 per cent, the lowest level since March of 1982. We are not satisfied with that, of course, and we will be working to ensure that the rate comes down lower. We know that there will be fluctuations in the rate. However, we are encouraged by the predictions of the Conference Board of Canada that the unemployment rate for next year will be down to 9.7 per cent. In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we have undertaken a new Canadian Jobs Strategy which will provide employment and training for some 400,000 Canadians who would not otherwise have a chance for jobs.

* * *

HOUSING

FUTURE OF GREYMAC APARTMENT UNITS IN TORONTO

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Finance responsible for the Canadian Deposit Insurance Corporation. In view of today's news about the Greymac properties, will the Minister assure this House that no sale of the 10,000-plus Greymac apartment units in Toronto will be permitted until the Minister has consulted Toronto City Council about a likely conflict with the stated policy against Toronto's by-law which restricts conversion of rental apartments to condominiums?