

Oral Questions

reject the conditions which are established for the free trade accord which the Prime Minister wants. Has the Prime Minister, through his ambassadors and his various envoys, simply not been talking to a Senator as important as this one? Or has he been putting views across that lead this Senator to put such ridiculous statements before the Canadian people?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not going to join in this matter in kicking it to death. Senator Matsunaga is a distinguished Senator from Hawaii who has a view that is clearly at variance not only with that of his own Party in the Senate but at variance with that expressed by President Reagan on behalf of the American people.

Ms. Jewett: It's ignorance.

Mr. Mulroney: The NDP says that it is ignorance.

Ms. Jewett: That is right.

Mr. Mulroney: If that is the case, then that is the view of the NDP. We saw what happens from the NDP when other people try to express their own views in the House of Commons.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: I am just stating for my hon. friend that while I reject categorically, always have and always will, any such point of view, I cannot impugn the motives of the Senator from Hawaii who chooses to hold such a view.

Mr. Rodriguez: We have two languages, Brian!

Mr. Mulroney: Having held meetings with Senator Bensten and many of his colleagues, I can tell the Hon. Member that that view in no way represents the view of the majority of Americans, either on the Finance Committee or the Trade Subcommittee, and it shall not be at any time a matter of consequence when trade matters are discussed.

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PUBLIC WORKS**PLACE VINCENT MASSEY—COST OF RENOVATIONS**

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. It concerns Place Vincent Massey in Hull. Moments ago Canadians witnessed the futile press conference given by the Minister of Public Works in which he so desperately tried to defend the indefensible in regard to the renewal of the lease at Place Vincent Massey.

Today the Minister and his officials admitted that they had no idea of the cost breakdown associated with the renovations involving this lease. One of his officials said: "We do not go into Mr. Tessier's books". If the Government does not know

what it cost to renovate the building, how then can the Minister, who maintains that it cost \$4.2 million, say that it was a good deal when he has no idea what the cost was?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry that the Hon. Member was not at the press conference—

Mr. Gauthier: We got it on TV.

Mr. McInnes:—where we gave the press the opportunity to ask us any question on any element of this particular issue, because we have nothing to hide.

We got cost estimates from the owner about the renovations which totalled in excess of \$4 million. Those were analysed. They were verified. It was agreed that they were reasonable. The matter was proceeded with.

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHEN RCMP SEIZED DOCUMENTS AND WHEN
MINISTER WAS INFORMED

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, we have learned today that the RCMP had seized documents concerning this case. I should like to know from the Minister the date when the RCMP seized these documents, when the Minister himself was so informed and, finally, why he neglected his duty and failed to admit it in the House last week instead of accusing Members of the Opposition?

[English]

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I have no more knowledge than any other Member of this House about an RCMP investigation. I know that they came and took some documents from our Department some time ago.

Mr. Nunziata: Seized!

Mr. McInnes: I do not know what they took. I do not know what the nature of the investigation is. I am sure the RCMP will let us know in the fullness of time the results of their investigation.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INQUIRY WHAT PRIME MINISTER PROPOSES TO DO TO EDUCATE
AMERICANS ON OFFICIAL BILINGUALISM OF CANADA

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and has to do with the utterly erroneous remarks of Senator Matsunaga. Would the Prime Minister not admit that first such erroneous remarks on the French fact in Canada must be condemned, and then that this misunderstanding must be corrected? What concrete measure does the Prime Minister