

Oral Questions

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, since I have directed Petro-Canada to act as if it were a privately-owned commercial operation that does respond to market pressures, I can assure the Hon. Member that that is in fact what is happening.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME**

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Canadians are becoming increasingly concerned about the apparent lack of compensation that victims of crime receive. Will the Minister tell the House what measures the Government is proposing to assist those who are tragically affected by crime?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the compensation schemes for the victims of crime are primarily matters for provincial Governments. The Government of Canada has a policy under which the costs of compensation for the victims of crime are shared.

We will be bringing in new initiatives in the victims' field in the next several months. We also hope to increase the proportion of the burden of the cost of compensation that the provinces share.

As of now, only one province does not have such a scheme. We will do what we can with the resources left to us by our predecessors to see that the percentage contributed by the federal Government is improved.

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● (1440)

VISIBLE MINORITIES**REDRESS FOR JAPANESE CANADIANS INTERNED DURING WORLD WAR II**

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Multiculturalism). It concerns the Japanese Canadian redress. Earlier today my Leader and I met with the National Association of Japanese Canadians and it is not impressed with the Minister's recent pressure and intimidating tactics. Given that it was Canadian citizens whose rights were trampled on, and given that the process needs to include those who were wronged, is the Minister prepared to await the Price Waterhouse report commissioned by the community and then negotiate a package with the National Association as his Government said it would only last year? What is so wrong with this process?

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Mr. Speaker, here is a Hon. Member who is representing the Liberal Party which in the last 43 years—

Mr. Caccia: Answer the question.

Mr. Jelinek:—has had ample opportunity to deal with this situation and did nothing whatsoever.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jelinek: The Hon. Member is not only hypocritical in asking such a question, but inconsistent, because two weeks ago—

Ms. Copps: Order.

Mr. Jelinek:—he asked: "Why aren't you moving right away?" Now he is saying: "Wait". Can he not make up his mind and stop playing political football with the Japanese Canadians?

Mr. Marchi: Mr. Speaker, Diefenbaker and Clark tried their best to ruin this country but—

Mr. Mazankowski: Shame!

Mr. Marchi:—we are looking to this present Government.

REQUEST THAT ACTION BE POSTPONED PENDING RECEIPT OF REPORT

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask this Minister, who knows about skating better than anybody else—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is difficult for me to know whether the Hon. Member has asked a question if I cannot hear him over the noise from this side. Would the Hon. Member come to a question, please.

Mr. Marchi: Will the Minister stop with the threats, await the report, and negotiate in partnership with the national association so that the two parties and, indeed, all of Canada, can have an agreement of which we can be proud for once and for all? What is he afraid of?

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): I can tell the Hon. Member that I am not afraid of him, that's for sure.

Mr. Gauthier: Skate around the edge.

Mr. Broadbent: What is this, a shoot out at the O.K. Corral?

Mr. Jelinek: The Hon. Member knows very well—he is grandstanding again—that I have been discussing this matter with all Japanese Canadian associations, including the National Association of Japanese Canadians. I met with them yesterday, and with Mr. Miki. I think we had a very fruitful discussion.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): So you say.