

Oral Questions

of the petitions prepared by the Liberal Party and signed by 25,000 taxpayers and in spite of the representations of the Quebec Conservative Caucus? Why put a tax on bread, milk and butter?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, that is a repeat of a previous erroneous allegation. My answer still stands.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

FRANCOPHONIE CONFERENCE—OMISSION FROM AGENDA

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley—Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question would have been addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs but in his absence, which I understand, I guess I have to direct it to the Deputy Prime Minister. If he does not have an answer I hope that he might perhaps be able to inform the House about it tomorrow.

Since the Government has taken a very leading role in human rights in the Commonwealth can the Deputy Prime Minister please explain why the human rights question is not on the agenda of the Francophonie Summit?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is well aware of the efforts that have been made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs with regard to the question of human rights. He has raised it, as does the Prime Minister, in every country on every opportunity.

As the Hon. Member is well aware, the Secretary of State for External Affairs has already explained that this item is not on the agenda because it would be very divisive at this particular summit.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss Carney: The issue of human rights and the discussions of human rights will underlie all agenda items.

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[Translation]

PUBLIC SERVICE

POLITICAL RIGHTS OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the new President of the Treasury Board concerning the political rights of federal government employees.

During the 1984 election campaign the Conservative Party promised, and I quote: A general abolition concerning the political activities of federal employees, particularly those who are protected by a collective agreement.

Is it still the position of the Conservative Government? When will we see a government Bill to fulfil this promise and give Public Service employees their political rights?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's interest in this matter. It is a matter that is of major interest and concern to the Government. I cannot give him a precise timeframe as to when we may be doing something. Suffice it to say that I will certainly review the situation and try to get back to the Hon. Member as quickly as possible.

REQUEST FOR INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister confirm that it is still the position of the Government to give to federal public employees the right of political participation that was promised by his Party in the 1984 election campaign? Now that he is President of the Treasury Board responsible for this dossier will he undertake to bring legislation in this fall so that federal public employees do not have to go through more provincial campaigns or even another federal campaign without the right to participate in the political process?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I thought I indicated that I was going to review the situation and get back to the Hon. Member as soon as I possibly can. I assure him that that will be the case.

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IMMIGRATION

ARRIVAL OF HONDURANS AT VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Over the past two months an increasing number of Hondurans have been arriving in Vancouver through the Vancouver International Airport. In fact, last Thursday, a group of 22, the largest yet, arrived off a Japan Airlines flight through Mexico City.

As I understand it Honduras is not a country which we have considered traditionally to be a refugee-producing country. Obviously, this supports the need for quick passage of Bill C-84 and Bill C-55.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!