

URBAN AFFAIRS

EFFECT ON HABITAT CONFERENCE OF THREATENED STRIKE BY TELEVISION EMPLOYEES

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the crippling effect the threatened walk-out of NABET employees could have on both the on-site exhibits and the worldwide transmission of the proceedings of Habitat, could the minister inform the House what prior indication he had that such a walkout would take place, and what contingency plans have been made to deal with such an eventuality?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is not as catastrophic a situation as indicated. So far as the internal official arrangements for the conference are concerned, they are well in hand. It would be a sad affair if the television transmission of this very important conference were lost in Canada and in all the world, and it would not be in the best interests of Canadians or the people of the world, who would benefit from this conference. There are contingency plans. I presume if an agreement is not reached before the conference, the position of the host broadcaster would be jeopardized, which would, in my view, be a tragedy.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

EFFECT OF DISPUTE WITH EMPLOYEES ON TELEVISION HABITAT CONFERENCE AND OLYMPIC GAMES

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my supplementary question to the Secretary of State. Can the minister tell the House how a dispute between NABET and the CBC involving a 2 per cent wage rollback by the Anti-Inflation Board was allowed to mushroom into a situation which places in jeopardy—regardless of what the Minister of State for Urban Affairs says—Canada's reputation as a host for major international events, particularly in the light of statements made by NABET employees and leaders implying that the proposed Habitat walkout may be followed by one prior to the Olympics and other major events?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I would have to get a report on that from the corporation. Perhaps the Minister of Labour has something he might like to add.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON NATIVE RIGHTS

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question regarding the government's recognition in principle of native rights and aboriginal title for native people in Canada. I should like to ask if the Prime Minister is prepared today to advise the House whether the government is in any way responding to the many submissions made since 1973 to the

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cabinet by the Metis and non-status Indians in regard to their very special rights in our society?

● (1430)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, there have been several meetings with various native leaders and the cabinet which has given consideration to their requests.

Mr. Oberle: A supplementary question. May I ask the Prime Minister if he would identify the very special situation that the forgotten people of Metis and non-status Indians are facing, particularly is there any discussion or dialogue with these people in areas where we are now researching and considering native claims, namely the territories of our country?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, that is one aspect of their requests and the federal government has agreed to give it consideration. The hon. member realizes, of course, that the federal government's first preoccupation was with the status Indians, those who do come under the administrative authority of the federal government. The others, the Metis, are provincial citizens. Like every other provincial citizen we hope the provincial governments will not consider them to be forgotten citizens, to use the expression of the hon. member.

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EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON REVIEW OF CLAUSE BOYCOTTING TRADE WITH ISRAEL

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. On May 8, 1975, speaking about the Arab boycott the Prime Minister said in the House, as reported at page 5583 of *Hansard*:

... that this type of practice is alien to everything the government stands for and, indeed, to what in general Canadian ethics stand for, ...

However, the then minister of industry, trade and commerce told the House on June 2, 1975, as reported at page 6326 of *Hansard*:

... the government as a whole will be considering this matter in the very near future. The view of the government will be communicated, of course, to all departments and to the Crown corporation.

A year has gone by since the Prime Minister's words, but no government decision on this matter has as yet been announced. I am asking if the Prime Minister can inform the House what he can do to ensure that his words of May 8, 1975 will be confirmed by cabinet as the current official government policy and will therefore be firmly applied and followed by all government departments and agencies without further delay?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hon. member's concern on this very important matter.

Mr. Alexander: He wants action.

Mr. Trudeau: I will inquire to ascertain the status of any progress in that particular case.