

been answered several times before and I simply refer the hon. gentleman to the records of the House.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, the question was put before, but we never got an answer.

REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVE PROHIBITING SALE OF  
NATIONAL PARKLAND

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, could the Deputy Prime Minister inform the House whether he intends to act responsibly and give clear and precise instructions to all those who are responsible for our national parks, indicating clearly that none of our national parks are for sale?

[*English*]

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, usually the view of the Opposition is that they get no responses to their questions simply because they choose not to accept the responses. On our part, however, we believe that they are responses to the questions and should be accepted from the Government. Again I invite the Hon. Member to refer to the records of the House.

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VISIBLE MINORITIES

RIGHTS OF JAPANESE-CANADIAN WARTIME INTERNEES

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Last Friday the Minister of State for Multiculturalism tabled a progress report on *Equality Now* which recommends at point 33 that the Government of Canada undertake negotiations to redress "these wrongs" namely, the mistreatment accorded the Japanese in Canada during and after the Second World War.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister confirm my information that the Cabinet has instructed the present Minister of State for Multiculturalism and his predecessor not to negotiate such a redress with the National Association of Japanese Canadians?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman should know better than to expect an answer to a question which is directly motivated by a desire to obtain knowledge of discussions from within Cabinet. He knows very well that that is simply not the practice and tradition of this House. Cabinet discussions are not disclosed on the floor of the House of Commons.

**Mr. Deans:** Neither is anything else.

**Mr. Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon):** The evidence certainly confirms the question which I put.

Oral Questions

REDRESS AGREEMENT INQUIRY

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Does the Government intend to betray the expectations which the Prime Minister, then Leader of the Opposition, aroused in the summer of 1984 about a redress agreement with the National Association of Japanese Canadians?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the short answer to the question is: Not at all.

\* \* \*

[*Translation*]

FINANCE

REDUCTION IN INTEREST RATES—SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED  
ENTERPRISES

**Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Finance). Everybody knows that in the last two weeks, interest rates dropped nearly 10 per cent as a result of our good Government. Could the Minister of State (Finance) inform the House what effect this substantial drop will have on small and medium-sized businesses?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, for a business with a debt of \$500,000, this means a savings of \$5,000 per year. The drop in interest rates should provide a stimulus for this very important sector of our economy.

\* \* \*

[*English*]

ENERGY

WESTERN ACCORD—REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY SMALL OIL  
COMPANIES

**Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. He knows that the provisions of the Western Accord allow the Government of Canada to take appropriate measures, particularly in these times of fluctuating international oil prices.

In keeping with the Prime Minister's commitment of openness and civility, is the Parliamentary Secretary prepared to table in the House copies of representations which have been made to him by numerous small Canadian oil and gas companies, particularly the memorandum which has been submitted to the Government by Petro-Canada, outlining the various options open to the Government?

● (1450)

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** I am unaware of a memo