

made that election promise. It was the Conservative Party which made that election promise.

Mr. Speaker: With great respect, does the Hon. Member have a question?

Mr. Hopkins: I would simply ask the Minister where is the honour and commitment on the Treasury benches of this Tory Government, when the Minister himself has been sitting on the Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet since last September and obviously had a part in making the cuts in real growth in defence expenditures. He was on the scene.

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, one commitment that I can give to the Hon. Member, and to all Members of this House, is that, unlike the last 16 years during which time the Armed Forces underwent erosion of a substantial nature, we will, under the leadership of the Prime Minister and the Conservative Government, ensure that we live up to our commitments to our allies and to NATO, to make Canadian men and women who serve in our Armed Forces proud once again to serve their country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ELECTION CAMPAIGN PROMISE

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, that is an interesting statement, in view of the fact that the Estimates tabled on Tuesday are \$150 million less than the previous Liberal Government proposal. The Minister is chairing the Government's task force examining ways of cutting spending. Is he suggesting that his Party never had any serious intention of keeping its promise of 6 per cent real growth in defence spending, but rather intended to lower it to the bare minimum of 3 per cent or less, as tabled Tuesday, or is it that his Party made promises in the last election simply based on lousy research?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, obviously the Hon. Member is confused. That is probably the result of the departure from his usual calm, controlled actions in the House of Commons. The Estimates of the Department will be before the Standing Committee as soon as the steering committee decides how to deal with the agenda. I anticipate that will be within a week or two. He will have the opportunity of going into that detail at that time. I can assure him, with respect to the Estimates, that they will provide sufficient to enable us, unlike the previous Government, to live up to those commitments to our allies in NATO.

Oral Questions

INDIAN AFFAIRS

LUBICON LAKE INDIAN BAND

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I understand that it is St. David's Day today. I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Last month the Minister appointed the Hon. E. Davie Fulton as his personal emissary to the Lubicon Lake Indian Band. The Lubicon people have been trying for 46 years to have a reserve set aside, and now they are fighting to try to prevent complete destruction of their lands by the oil companies. When the Minister appointed Mr. Fulton, why did he not at least notify the Lubicon people of his action? Can he inform the House of the terms of reference for Mr. Fulton's work, how much power he will have to negotiate a real settlement, and when his work is expected to be finished?

Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member agrees with me that it was a good opportunity to have the appointment of the Hon. Davie Fulton to such a task, because the matter which he outlined with respect to Lubicon Lake and some of the other communities is such a complicated one. As a consequence of that complication, after I had advised the band that I intended to pick an envoy, I advised that what I would do was work out terms of reference for the Hon. Davie Fulton. We are in the process of doing that. Mr. Fulton indicated that he would not be able to start until mid-March, and we are just on target.

POWERS OF MINISTER'S REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, will Mr. Fulton have any power to bring justice to the Lubicon people, or is he simply going to be given a mandate to do a further study, which will result in further delays, while the Lubicon Lake area is being further destroyed?

Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member realizes that after all these years, after waiting for Government after Government to do something, the Lubicon people are delighted to have Mr. Fulton do the job.

Mr. Manly: Will he have power?

Mr. Crombie: If the Hon. Member would listen, I would say to him that, wherever Mr. Fulton does the job, he does it with a sense of justice, and he will have the power to do so.

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CROWN CORPORATIONS

PROPOSED SALE OF CANADAIR AND DE HAVILLAND

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister confirm that the Canada Development Investment Corpora-