

INDIAN AFFAIRS

THE PAS INDIAN BAND—DISPUTE CONCERNING OPERATING FUNDS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Keith Taylor (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Is the minister aware of the dispute between his department and The Pas Indian band concerning operating funds? In view of the fact the band has relinquished all responsibility for programs on the reserve, and in view of the fact that over 300 children are not attending school, will the minister assure the House that he will take the necessary action to resolve the dispute without delay?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have been informed of the situation. I feel it is unfortunate because just a few years ago there was absolutely no program vesting Indians with the authority to administer their own funds. However, we must operate within a budget and we are unable to meet the requirements of all Indians; I hope to be able to meet some of their requests. I do not believe it is possible to meet all their aspirations within one year. We have progressed tremendously in this area during the past few years, and attitudes of the kind that have been taken recently are not likely to further the cause of Indians more rapidly.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I hesitate to do so. I had hoped to ask a question on this. In replying to a question on the government's jurisdiction over the Canadian Transport Commission with regard to the decision-making of that body, the Minister of Communications left some doubt whether he knew what he was talking about. He seemed to indicate there was some question whether the government had any jurisdiction after a decision had been made. Since that time I have had an opportunity to examine the National Transportation Act. For the education and edification of the Minister of Communications, may I refer him to Section 64(1) which gives the Governor in Council the authority to rescind any order of the Canadian Transport Commission.

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TRANSPORT

NEWFOUNDLAND—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE OF ICE BREAKER

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am not sure how to get my point across to Your Honour and the House. For the past six or eight weeks the east coast of Newfoundland has been suffering from the worst ice blockade in history. Today, we received serious reports about a fuel shortage and the fact that one vessel is dangerously stuck in the ice floes. Despite the diligent efforts of the departmental officials to serve all the needs of the local inhabitants, they

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have not been able to do so. I wonder if I could ask the minister today to state whether he could mobilize some icebreaker facilities to assist in what could be a very serious situation. I am reluctant to ask this question, but it is of a nature that is very urgent and not the typical question raised in the House.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am ready to consider that and discuss it with the hon. member.

• (1510)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW BILL

PROVISIONS RESPECTING ACQUISITIONS OF CONTROL OF CANADIAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW BUSINESSES

The House resumed, from Friday, March 30, consideration of the motion of Mr. Gillespie that Bill C-132, to provide for the review and assessment of acquisitions of control of Canadian business enterprises by certain persons and of the establishment of new businesses in Canada by certain persons, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, when this debate was adjourned on Friday, I was in the course of emphasizing that the economic nationalism, if you like to call it that, to which my hon. friends and I subscribe is not an expression of xenophobia but an essential ingredient of individual and national dignity. I said last Friday, in effect, that it was neither arid nationalism nor a case of outdated chauvinism. It is, as far as I am concerned, an assertion of a healthy national individuality. I put it to you, Mr. Speaker, that we cannot have confidence in ourselves if we lack confidence in our own country, and that a country incapable of making its own decisions would, indeed, deserve no confidence. That is the road along which we are now travelling. Fortunately, however, Canada at the present time still deserves our confidence; our people across the country know this and are proud of this. But we must take immediate steps to make sure that our ability to maintain this status is not further eroded.

The fact is that over the last five years an endless stream of statistics and studies has convinced even the most sceptical of Canadians that our economy is largely controlled from outside our borders and, this being so, many political decisions must at least be influenced by pressures which do not originate in Canada and which therefore fail to reflect Canadian interests.

May I remind the House of a couple of statements made by the President of Mexico last Friday—statements which I accept without reservation? I quote from page 2802 of *Hansard*:

The control of the state over the main economic processes is a necessary condition to maintain the autonomy of its political decisions. That is why there is a general concern to study and regulate