

ation of this legislation reached as of today and are there any obstacles at this time that he can foresee? Would the minister inform the public as to why we should not have legislation controlling these Crown corporations?

● (1200)

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board):** Madam Speaker, let me advise the House first of all that these reports are certainly not gathering dust. In fact, very substantial progress has been and will be made in bringing forward a co-ordinated response to the Lambert and D'Avignon reports.

With respect to Crown corporations per se, I know this House has great interest in the subject and a bill was previously tabled. We have received many constructive criticisms of that bill. I know there is considerable interest on all sides of the House; I recently read a speech by the hon. member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe on the subject. I would like to assure hon. members that I will be bringing forward proposals with respect to Crown corporation legislation to my colleagues in the very near future, and by that I mean within a matter of days.

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#### ACCESS TO INFORMATION

##### CAMPAIGN OF AWARENESS TO NEEDS OF THIRD WORLD

**Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I want to ask him about the "Dear friend" letter which he sent out recently together with a questionnaire entitled "Study No. T.0061". In his letter the minister implies that he is seeking the views of opinion leaders across Canada. A first step in this campaign is "to enhance the awareness of Canadians to the needs of the Third World".

How many of these questionnaires did the minister send out? Did they go to all parts of Canada, and how were the recipients selected? Perhaps the minister can tell us if it is a substitute for the government's costly advertising campaign which has been going on recently.

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, in order to lay the groundwork for a campaign of public information, some months ago I decided to have a large-scale oral survey of Canadian public opinion to enable the campaign to be better planned. That survey has been completed, and shortly I will be releasing the results to the public and, of course, to this House.

The questionnaire to which the hon. member refers is the same questionnaire which was also sent to a representative selection of public opinion leaders across Canada. It was a supplement to the more scientifically conducted questionnaire, and the results of that will also be available to the public in the long run.

**Mr. Clarke:** Madam Speaker, the minister obviously has more faith in the Post Office than some of us. The question-

#### Oral Questions

naire was mailed on November 6 requesting a return by November 12. Can the minister tell us how many he has received back and when he might be releasing the results to the House?

**Mr. MacGuigan:** Madam Speaker, the primary survey is the scientifically conducted one, the results of which will be released within a week or two. The other one, the supplementary one to which the hon. member is referring, that of opinion leaders, will depend upon when we feel a sufficiently representative number has been returned.

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#### INDIAN ACT

##### ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIAN WOMEN

**Mr. Lorne McCuish (Prince George-Bulkley Valley):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Reading from a prepared text, in his speech to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development on November 18 the minister stated, and I quote:

I agreed last summer to suspend sections of the Indian Act which discriminated against Indian women, when asked to do so by band councils.

Is the minister saying that he is prepared to allow sex discrimination and make third-class citizens of Indian women solely at the whim of a band council?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Madam Speaker, I think the implication of that question is rather insulting to chiefs of band councils across Canada, because the essence of the action I took was simply—and this is in line with our commitment and, I understand, the position of the opposition too—the promotion of a great deal more self-government by Indians across this country.

In essence, it is saying that if the chief and band council wish me—and they give me a BCR—to use my powers under section 4 of the Indian Act to set aside the alleged discrimination in section 12 with respect to an Indian woman who marries a non-Indian man, I will do so on receipt of that BCR. It is the government's way of saying to Indians that with respect to this particular problem they can make the decision. Once they make the decision, we will adhere to a decision they themselves make and give them an opportunity to settle this question without having non-Indians settle it for them.

**Mr. McCuish:** Madam Speaker, the minister is saying that he has in fact condoned negative action by a band council. I wonder if he would relate the position to his home town of Hamilton. If the mayor and council of that city decided that the women in Hamilton no longer should have the right to own land or to vote, would he concur with the action and support that mayor and council? If not, by what rationale can he hold the rights and privileges of women in Hamilton above those in Grassy Plains?