

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to do so. I will see that translations are made and have the document prepared. I had been expecting that the government of Alberta, which announced the project originally, would have been making a public statement on this matter. However, I shall be glad to table the letter.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

REQUEST THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASK QUEBEC TO HALT CONSTRUCTION OF JAMES BAY POWER PROJECT UNTIL NATIVES' CLAIMS SETTLED

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Since the Supreme Court of Canada, in a three-two decision has decided not to hear the appeal of the James Bay Indians against continued construction of the massive hydroelectric project now under way in Quebec, will the federal government use its clear constitutional authority in relation to Indians and lands reserved for Indians to demand that the Quebec government order a halt to construction until such time as an acceptable political settlement of native land claims can be negotiated?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): I do not think the law provides that the government may substitute itself for the court. I know the Indians have rights. I have stated this and I have helped them to go to the courts. Once more, I state my view that the only way to get out of this difficulty is through a just and reasonable settlement. I am urging the Indians and the Quebec government to agree to such a settlement. I am working to this end, and I hope both parties will accept what is reasonable.

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Since the minister will not undertake to use his good offices to have current construction halted—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):—will he at least assure the House that he and his negotiators will give immediate consideration to the matter which the James Bay Indians list as their No. 1. priority, that is, the significant modification of the plans for the LG-1 dam?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I should like to correct the hon. member. I have been negotiating on this matter at least three or four times a week. I have been involved. I have been in Montreal, I have been in Quebec. And I have been attending the House of Commons. I am doing my utmost.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Chrétien: As I have already stated, I think that for the sake of a good settlement we should not try to make this a political matter. We do not need any back-seat drivers in this case.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): What the minister needs, Mr. Speaker, is a good front-seat driver.

Mr. Stanfield: Arrogance!

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): In connection with the negotiations the minister purports to have undertaken, I wonder whether he can report any progress to the House.

Mr. Chretien: I am glad to report that proposals have been made by the Quebec government to the Indians and that the Indians are studying those proposals. Quebec has appointed a negotiator who knows about the Indian problem, my former assistant deputy minister. They are talking about the matter, and I do not want to say too much about it because I am not keen on publicity; all I want is to resolve this difficulty.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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INDUSTRY

PROPOSED TAKEOVER OF MACDONALD TOBACCO COMPANY BY UNITED STATES FIRM—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PREVENT

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It follows a question I asked in the House yesterday concerning the takeover of the Macdonald Tobacco Company by R. J. Reynolds of North Carolina. The statement the minister made in the House yesterday did no more than indicate voluntary guidelines with respect to takeovers which occur in the interim period. Since, according to the minister, this takeover is not yet complete, would he tell us what specific steps he intends to take with regard to this takeover which will mean foreign domination of this important industry?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): As I believe I indicated yesterday, I have already taken a step. I asked the representatives of the firm to come to Ottawa. I have met with them and have asked them a number of questions. I am now waiting to hear further from them.

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[Translation]

SPORTS

VIOLENCE IN JUNIOR HOCKEY—REQUEST FOR INQUIRY

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the minister responsible for amateur sport in Canada, the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

In view of recent reports of violence between junior hockey players, does the minister intend, if possible, to undertake an in-depth inquiry into this situation so that junior hockey becomes a school of leadership instead of violence, as is the case at present?