Oral Questions

THE CONSTITUTION

STATUS OF NATIVE WOMEN—ATTENDANCE AT CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Madam Speaker, two years ago the Prime Minister said that one or two more years should be the limit before the government moved unilaterally to end the discrimination against Indian women under the Indian Act, but in the intervening two years the government has not even consulted with Indian leaders or with the leaders of Indian women about the best way to end this discrimination. Obviously, Indian women will have to speak for themselves on this issue.

Will the Prime Minister invite representatives of the Native Women's Association of Canada to attend the coming constitutional conference so that the unique problems of Indian women will not be overlooked when the conference deals with constitutional matters which directly affect the aboriginal peoples of Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I indicated before that the attendance at the constitutional conference will be a matter to be discussed between the premiers and myself. As a minimum, I intend to invite the principal representatives of the three aboriginal groups in other words, the Inuit, the Indians, and the Metis. That would be the minimum. However, I will see whether the provinces have any suggestions for additions or, indeed, whether the aboriginal groups themselves have any suggestions for additions.

REQUEST THAT NATIVE WOMEN BE REPRESENTED

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Prime Minister, who knows that the other three groups which have already been invited all have their own legitimate concerns, and that in the pursuit of those concerns the needs of Indian women can very easily be overlooked. There is a fourth national aboriginal group, and I ask the Prime Minister if he will consider inviting that group, the Native Women's Association of Canada, to send representatives to the constitutional conference and to fund them for so doing.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I must say that I disagree with the premise of the question. The hon. member is suggesting that the national representative groups of the Indian people are not representative of half of those Indian people. I suggest that that is not a compliment to those representative bodies. He may have representations to make directly to them himself, but I take it that the official spokesmen of the Indian people speak for all the Indian people.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

DISPOSITION OF DONALD MARSHALL CASE

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice and it arises from my concern involving the Donald Marshall case. Donald Marshall is a man who was convicted of murder 11 years ago and his conviction is now being questioned. I wonder whether the minister is prepared today to tell us if he has reached a decision with regard to further disposition of this case.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Madam Speaker, I would like to inform the hon. member and the House that I referred the question to the Nova Scotia Supreme Court and asked the court to make a determination on this case in the light of new evidence brought forward, pursuant to Section 617(b) of the Criminal Code.

Mr. Lawrence: Why did you not say that yesterday?

THE ECONOMY

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION—REQUEST FOR NEW TAX INCENTIVES

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. The Minister of State for Economic Development recently said in Victoria:

We are going to stop propping up mature industries that will never be competitive in this generation, like textiles, clothing, footwear and a number of others.

And he also said:

We are not going to process every one of our natural resources into the final product. For one thing, we do not have the people.

Does the Prime Minister not consider that Canada's million and a quarter unemployed people very clearly indicate that we do have the people necessary to process a far greater proportion of our natural resources into finished products than we process at the present time? I would ask him if the government is considering the introduction of a generous tax incentive to be applied to new and additional production, which will persuade entrepreneurs in Canada to undertake new, additional production in our factories so that we can provide employment for our very large number of unemployed workers.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the hon. member asked two questions. With regard to the first question, stated in the way it was stated, I must say that I agree with the hon. member that we do have the people. With regard to the second question, I understand that he is making a representation as to what our tax policy should be, and I assure him that it will be duly noted.