

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I think that all these questions will arise out of the action that will be promoted by the report of the International Joint Commission.

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether the government of Canada was acquainted with the contents of the speech delivered by the Chairman of the Ontario Water Resources Commission before its publication and, if so, can he tell us to what extent the accusations made by the Chairman of the Ontario Water Resources Commission reflect the official Canadian position?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

NORTHERN QUEBEC—TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION OVER ESKIMOS

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Has he any report to give on the meetings that have taken place between representatives of the government of Canada and the government of the province of Quebec with the Eskimos? He stated a couple of weeks ago that he expected a report shortly.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): No, Mr. Speaker, I have nothing new to tell the House. I suggest, however, that it would be advisable to wait until the appointment of the new minister before having serious discussions on this matter.

[*English*]

GIFT OF MONEY BY SOUTHEAST ASIA COUNTRIES

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, might I ask the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development whether he has acknowledged with thanks the contribution made by certain countries in Southeast Asia in the form of assistance for Eskimos and Indians in Canada, for the reason that the plight of Canada's native people requires assistance? Is he aware that a gift of over \$1,000 was made available by these countries in Southeast Asia? This shows the image which Canada has abroad in this regard.

[*Mr. Aiken.*]

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I have read the statement that appeared in the press on this matter, and I hope that the policy that the Prime Minister and myself have announced last June, in an effort to ensure equality to all Canadian citizens in accordance with the Canadian Bill of Rights, will be enthusiastically received by all Canadians, including the right hon. member for Prince Albert.

[*English*]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, if the minister will now answer the question, has he acknowledged with appreciation the gift from these countries in Southeast Asia, some of which are poverty-stricken but which, because of the reported conditions of Canadian Indians and Eskimos, have made a contribution to raise the standards of these people?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what association can have sent those funds. However, if there is some confusion in the minds of some people abroad, it results from the fact that members of Parliament try to derive some political benefit from the situation, instead of suggesting adequate solutions.

[*English*]

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister speaks for himself. What an admission on his part.

SHIPPING

SAFETY AND MANNING CONDITIONS ON WEST COAST TOWBOATS

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. It has to do with the recent federal report in regard to dangerous conditions in the tugboat industry of British Columbia. Can the minister indicate whether any progress has been made in the discussions between the workers and the operators to reduce the hazards in this industry which were brought to light by the federal report?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated two days ago in the House I took the initiative to have the head of the steamship inspection branch convene a meeting in Vancouver. I think four sessions have been held. At these both the employers and the various unions have been represented. The meetings are continuing and the last word I had was that progress was being made, and there is some