

Inquiries of the Ministry

Therefore the government does support in general the idea that all forms of income and prices and so on should be restrained. To this extent we support the Prices and Incomes Commission. If the hon. member asks me directly whether the provinces have agreed to apply a certain kind of restraint in the areas over which they have control, I would have to take the question as notice.

INDIAN AFFAIRS**CANCELLATION OF APPOINTMENT OF CLAIMS COMMISSION**

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the statement the Prime Minister made to Indian leaders recently in Ottawa that the government would not force the white paper policy on the Indian people, has a decision been taken to cancel the appointment of the Indian claims commissioner appointed to inquire into certain matters affecting Indian claims?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the policy we suggested a year ago was based on proposals. We do not intend to force anything on the Indians.

I wish to point out to the hon. member that this commissioner was appointed after the Indians had set up their own inquiry committee headed by Chief Délisle of Caughnawaga which is responsible to the Indians although it is financed by the government. On the other hand, Mr. Barber is responsible to the government. His contribution is aimed at clearing up the matter, so that the discussion will be more open when each party knows whether or not the contracts have been adhered to.

[*English*]

ACTION TO DEAL WITH CLAIMS OF NON-TREATY INDIANS

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I should like to ask the minister whether the government intends to do anything at all to deal with the legitimate and real claims of the Indian and Eskimo people in northern Quebec, in the Northwest Territories and in British Columbia with regard to resources and lands which they claim to be theirs?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr.

[Mr. Sharp.]

Speaker, as far as New Quebec is concerned, I had the opportunity to discuss this matter personally with the provincial authorities. A tripartite committee, composed of representatives of the federal government, the provincial government and the Indians, was set up to look into this problem.

As regards the Northwest Territories, those are obligations now being studied by Commissioner Barber.

With respect to the rights of non-treaty British-Columbia Indians, they brought their troubles themselves before the Supreme Court of Canada.

[*English*]

POST OFFICE**RESTORATION OF NORMAL SERVICE IN WINDSOR, ONT.**

Mr. Mark MacGuigan (Windsor-Walkerville): My question is for the Minister of Communications. In light of the fact that residents of the city of Windsor have received mail only once since the current postal negotiations began, can the minister advise the House when normal postal service will be restored in Windsor?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Minister of Communications and Postmaster General): I am extremely sorry that there is not normal postal service in Windsor. At the present time the unions are attempting to dictate to the Post Office the terms under which casual employees will be engaged. We regret that we cannot accept this kind of dictation. We realize that the service is diminishing—in fact it is bleeding to death in Windsor—but until the unions accept the fact that the Post Office will itself determine who is needed to sort and carry the mail there is nothing that can be done.

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): May I ask the minister when, in his opinion, mail delivery service was normal in any part of Canada?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I have the impression that the question is argumentative.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**INQUIRY AS TO WHITE PAPER**

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can he tell us