

*Inquiries of the Ministry**[Translation]*

**Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac):** First of all, I want to thank the minister for having sent us the French version of his statement.

I also want to congratulate the government and the minister for what they are doing to secure summer employment for students, at the urging of hon. members.

I also want to take this opportunity to praise several manpower centers that are doing commendable work to cope with the endemic state of unemployment, particularly in Quebec. Let us hope that those efforts will one day serve to render financially feasible what is physically possible.

I was sorry to hear that some students had refused employment on farms. Young university students like them could learn a whole lot of practical things, because even in university it is necessary to know that cows are milked twice a day. It is not necessary to wait until one becomes prime minister to learn that.

Every week, I draw the attention of the house to the problem of unemployment. As many other members, I receive a number of requests for employment from people between 35 and 50 years of age, who are unable to get any kind of work and are sometimes replaced by students. This problem should be considered seriously.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let us hope that with all the people of good will, we will work together in order to find a solution to the unemployment problem. Otherwise, socialism will take hold in Canada and I would fear that this would inevitably lead us to communism.

*[English]***ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****INDIAN AFFAIRS**

**FUNDS TO PERMIT STUDIES BY NATIVE  
PEOPLE—REQUEST BY NATIONAL  
INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development a question arising out of the renewed request of the National Indian Brotherhood for funds to allow an independent investigation by Indians of treaty and aboriginal rights following the announcement of the position taken by the minister. Bearing this in mind, is the minister prepared to

**[Mr. Lewis.]**

review his position and consider the renewed request of the Indian people through the Brotherhood as opposed to leaving the matter to the unappointed commissioner and the department as the minister had in mind?

*[Translation]*

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I have repeatedly stated that the government intended to supply funds to the National Indian Brotherhood to help them establish this research committee on Indian rights and treaties.

We shall carry out that intention. We have said that the funds will be provided through the commissioner who is to be appointed. At any rate, whether the funds come directly from the government or through the commissioner, the Indians will be free to carry out the investigations required to throw light on the situation.

*[English]*

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the minister does not seem to think it makes very much difference whether the funds go directly to the Indian people or through the commissioner, is he not prepared to meet the wishes of the Indian people in order to provide funds directly so they will feel they are in a position to cope with the kind of negotiations and arrangements the minister has in mind?

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I believe that the commissioner, once appointed, will be able to work in co-operation with the Indian people and also that the system we have suggested is adequate. Any way, Thursday morning, I believe, I am supposed to meet, with the president of the National Indian Brotherhood, Mr. Deiter, and I shall discuss the matter with him.

*[English]*

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, will the minister please bear in mind the importance of what he has launched getting off to a good start and consequently consider very urgently the direct provision of these funds as requested by the Indian people rather than leaving them in a state of uncertainty for some time until the commissioner is appointed?

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I hope I can discuss all those problems with the president