

INDIAN AFFAIRS

FUTURE USE OF FORMER CANADIAN FORCES BASE IN
MANITOBA

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, whom I welcome back from his visit to Manitoba. Will the Minister explain to the House now why he has permitted his colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, to interfere in the decision regarding the future use of the CFB radar base at Beauséjour? Why has the Minister yielded to the idea of building a prison there rather than following the Treasury Board recommendation of September 3 that this site ought to be used to help fulfil the claim for land entitlement from the Long Plains Indian Band?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, without accepting the premise that the Treasury Board made a recommendation on September 3, which is not accurate, I would like to say yes, I did so have discussions with the Member of Parliament regarding the use of that. It is the long established policy within Indian Affairs to have discussions with the affected parties, with the province, and with the community. More important, there has not been any agreement on entitlement signed between the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada. The band in question has not entered into negotiations for entitlement.

SETTLEMENT OF LAND CLAIM

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): I want to ask the Minister if he allows the Beauséjour site to slip away from him, where will the land come from to make this settlement and at what cost? Has Premier Pawley of Manitoba agreed to an alternate site? Do I have to remind the Minister about his trust responsibility?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): No, Mr. Speaker, I will fulfil that responsibility at a par or I would hope better than my predecessors who were represented in the former Government of this country, not my immediate predecessor. But I will tell the Hon. Member that discussions have taken place between the band and the Government of Manitoba. But again the Hon. Member knows before entitlement can take place there have to be discussions and an agreement on how to fulfil entitlement.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—RATIFICATION OF
AGREEMENT

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Yesterday the Minister of International Trade said of the freer trade talks,

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and I quote from *Hansard*: "At the appropriate time, these negotiations will be ratified in the House". Yet her press secretary is quoted as saying later "this was a mistake".

● (1440)

Whom do we believe, the Minister or her staff person?

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I will reply to the Hon. Member's question. Yesterday the Minister used the term "ratified" in the colloquial sense, in that all activities of the Government come under the scrutiny of the House and the trade negotiations are no different.

METHOD OF RATIFICATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, since the Prime Minister indicated earlier that this comprehensive deal, if it is to be established, had to be "ratified", could he explain exactly what is the policy of the Government? Does it intend to take this immensely important issue before the people of the country through the House of Commons or not?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have responded to that question in the House. I have communicated in writing with the First Ministers with regard to that issue. There is no difference at all between the position taken by the Minister for International Trade and myself.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES FUNDING OF MEASURES TO COMBAT ACID RAIN

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. In March of this year he told the House that millions of dollars were committed in the United States to abate acid rain. Would the Minister inform the House how much money the U.S. has put into the abatement of acid rain since March?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the answer is \$400 million on nine major projects.

SULPHUR DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, would the Hon. Minister care to translate that amount of money into tonnage reduction of U.S. sulphur dioxide emissions spewing over the border into the Canadian environment since March?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I can only assume that that was yet another lecture from the Hon. Member for Davenport on the need for the Government to take acid rain seriously. This Party and this Government do not need any lessons from that Member or that