

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Laing: I think I should not answer that question until the matters which were discussed on Saturday, and about which we came to a satisfactory conclusion, are submitted to our respective governments. I indicated in the last paragraph of my statement that we may make a public statement after submissions to our respective governments.

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Royal): Will the minister say whether parliament will have an opportunity to consider this agreement?

Mr. Laing: I do not wish to comment on that at this time.

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): Is the minister able to tell the house what sort of consultations or safeguards the government has in mind for the Eskimos? Is it a question of a referendum or something like that?

Mr. Laing: The details of the safeguards which were insisted upon are adequately spelled out and, as I say, may be published by both governments later.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gregoire: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like the minister to tell us how he can reconcile the fact that the administration of jurisdiction respecting Eskimo affairs can be transferred without transferring at the same time the responsibility this jurisdiction implies?

[*Text*]

Mr. Speaker: I do not believe that question is in order. It is argumentative, hypothetical and a few other things.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. It is related to the subject matter of the policy announcement by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources regarding the transfer of jurisdiction over Eskimo affairs in one province. Does that principle apply also with respect to the other group of aboriginal people in Canada, our native Indians, and are any steps being taken to consult the provinces about any transfer of jurisdiction over them?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): All I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that no principle would be adopted and applied to one province which would not be applicable to all provinces.

Mr. Howard: Perhaps the Prime Minister did not get the question clearly in the first place. I asked about the principle of transfer of jurisdiction over Eskimo people, and I want to know what is the position of the

[Mr. Martineau.]

government with respect to the transfer of jurisdiction over Indian people.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I do not think I should be expected to answer that question on orders of the day. I shall be glad to look into it and see if a statement can be made.

Mr. Gene Rheame (Northwest Territories): As a supplementary question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is this a supplementary or a direct question?

Mr. Rheame: It is a supplementary to the one just asked.

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest that the hon. member put a direct question, because I do not think a supplementary is called for.

Mr. Rheame: I address my question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Can he advise the house whether the government of Quebec is at the present time negotiating with his department for the transfer of jurisdiction over Indian people in nouveau Quebec to the province?

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the minister I shall take the question as notice.

“OOKPIK”—PRODUCTION OF MODELS BY ESKIMO
CO-OPERATIVE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I have a question to ask of the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Can the minister advise the house what an ookpik is and what his department has to do with it, whatever it may be?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for having “hooted” at me before we met this morning. The word “ookpik” in the Esquimo language means Arctic owl, and one of our Eskimo co-operatives is producing models of such an Arctic owl under the name “Ookpik”.

These models and the name Ookpik have been used by the Department of Trade and Commerce as an international trade symbol for Canada and, accordingly, the name Ookpik was been adopted by Her Majesty and public notice is being given by the registrar of trade marks. The Fort Chimo Eskimo co-operative, which developed the Ookpik, is in the process of licensing commercial manufacturers in southern Canada. I certainly hope