

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

had to be here. We would have, in effect, had an answer from the horse's mouth.

I am looking forward to the reply that will be given in the hope that it will contain some clear announcement about the responsibilities of the hon. member for Port Arthur in order that our native people will know where they stand in dealing with him in the future.

**Mr. J. E. Walker (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it is gratifying to hear the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) speak so well of at least one minister of the Crown. I am sure the government will appreciate this very much. If my memory serves me correctly the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) dealt with a question similar to this in the House of Commons. I have not had a chance to refer to the particular question on the day mentioned by the hon. member, but I was in the house when the Prime Minister answered a question similar to it. At that time he stated that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) is the minister responsible for discharging the activities of that department. The Prime Minister stated as well that the minister is being assisted in one special aspect of his duties by the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Andras) from Port Arthur. The Prime Minister made it clear that the line of responsibility runs through the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Andras) to the minister with portfolio.

I think it is common knowledge to us all how active have been these two ministers in past months in meeting with the native peoples of Canada so as to learn at first hand the problems and the desires of our oldest citizens. There is considerable evidence of the feeling of good will that has been engendered

by these activities, a feeling which I am sure will continue throughout this administration.

As the Prime Minister has said on other occasions and as has been repeated by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the government has in principle agreed to the preparation of new legislation which will deal with the status of Indian peoples in Canada. It is in an attempt to determine the content of that legislation, and the policy most acceptable to the native peoples themselves as being the likeliest to meet their expectations, that the two ministers are now engaging themselves. Certainly, in the end result the beneficiaries of this activity will be, as we all want them to be, the native peoples themselves.

*[Translation]*

HISTORIC MONUMENTS—ADMINISTRATION  
AND MAINTENANCE OF VIMY MONUMENT

**Mr. Gérald Laniel (Beauharnois):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether it is in order but I rise on a question of privilege to point out that as the minister has been detained in Montreal and his executive assistant informed me that the minister wishes to answer my question personally, I agreed not to discuss it to-night. However, I hope that the house will allow me to raise the matter again during the next proceedings on the adjournment motion.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. I do not think there is a strict provision concerning proceedings on the adjournment motion, but I can tell the hon. member that his remarks have been noted and will be conveyed to whom it may concern.

*[English]*

Motion agreed to, and the house adjourned at 10.15 p.m.