

Oral Questions

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Question.

Mr. Jelinek: You would not understand it if you heard it. Why do you not listen? It is a well known fact that the minister has shown great interest in catering to professional athletes in the past. Keeping that in mind, can the minister advise this House what steps, if any, he intends to take with regard to the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association problems in collecting their dues from professional teams for their right to draft amateur players? Also, does the minister intend as well to take steps to bring both the NHL and the World Hockey Association to the bargaining table for the purpose of negotiating a new Pro-Am agreement?

● (1440)

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I believe the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association has already instituted proceedings in order that its rights, under a former contract, be respected.

With regard to the signing of a new agreement, I have already met the leagues concerned once, and the interested parties gave me their verbal assurance that a contract would be signed. Now, it is particularly difficult to take part in negotiations when one is dealing with individuals who do not seem to live up to their word. I shall see what can be done. I have received a letter from the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association and will see if there is a possibility of resuming negotiations. But, once again, I must point out to the hon. member that, when one cannot rely on the promises made, it is quite difficult to conclude agreements.

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[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES—REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH NATIVE PEOPLE AND CHIEFS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I would like to get back to the question of circulars, directives, guidelines and so on which will affect our native people. In light of the fact the minister said extensive consultation has taken place with our native people and the president of the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, Mr. Alexander Denny, speaking on behalf of the band councils, native people and chiefs in the province of Nova Scotia stated that no consultation has taken place, will the minister be good enough to arrange this consultation to which he refers as soon as possible?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we feel that consultation has in fact taken place. As I indicated earlier, we are prepared to regard the guidelines currently in force as being interim in nature. With regard to the ones that have not yet been proclaimed, we have set a time frame for input by the native people. The government discussed the

[Mr. Jelinek.]

guidelines with the National Brotherhood over a period of 18 months. As well there were two national conferences for the Indians which were sponsored by the Department of Indian Affairs. There has, in fact, been consultation.

Mr. Muir: Mr. Speaker, the native people of Nova Scotia have always been most co-operative in dealing with the minister and his department. In light of the fact they feel the minister has quite a bit of merit in his guidelines and so on, will he arrange as soon as possible to have senior people from his department meet with the president and the band chiefs of that province?

Mr. Buchanan: Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to do that.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EXPORT OF CANDU REACTORS AND NUCLEAR MATERIAL—SUGGESTION SALE BE CONDITIONAL ON SIGNING SAFEGUARD AGREEMENT

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is with regard to the report that some 20,000 tons of uranium oxide is to be exported to such countries as Italy, Britain, Spain, West Germany and Finland, subject to their signing a bilateral nuclear safeguard arrangement. I want to inquire of the minister whether any of those countries have yet signed this agreement. Also, would the minister be prepared to table a copy of that agreement so that members may have an opportunity to examine the nature of the safeguards which are being imposed?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, to my recollection, no such agreement has been signed. However, I will check into the matter. I will also consider the possibility of tabling such agreements.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): On December 20 last, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said that negotiations were going on for the export of CANDU reactors to Argentina, Iran, South Korea, Denmark, Rumania, Great Britain and Italy. Will the export of any of these CANDU reactors be contingent on signing this new bilateral safeguard agreement?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the sale of any of these particular reactors will be dependent upon the negotiations and acceptance of satisfactory bilateral safeguards. These safeguard provisions will be put together in the form of bilateral agreements.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): In view of the fact the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources told the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works that from now on, all uranium, atomic technology and nuclear reactors would require the signing of the nuclear agreement to which I have referred, I wish to ask the minister if that is the situation and there will be no exports of uranium oxide, CANDU reactors or atomic technology unless the country concerned has signed the agreement which the minister's