

have a forester there. We have fly-overs. I went out personally and told the chief what I thought of what he was doing.

We are meeting with the chiefs. I do not think what they did was correct. We told them so very forthrightly. If they do the right thing, as they do in northern Saskatchewan or at the National Forestry Institute that the aboriginal people have, then we will support them. However, when they do it incorrectly we are there to tell them so.

Mr. Preston Manning (Calgary Southwest, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, when I asked why the minister did not act I meant why does he not enforce his department's own forestry management plans?

The department issued permits for 600 truckloads of logs per year. Since last spring, however, at least 14,000 truckloads of old growth forest has been harvested. Department officials knew of the flagrant violations of the management plan but refused to stop it.

Why did the minister's officials not discharge their responsibilities to ensure sound logging practices on the Stoney Reserve in Alberta?

Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, there is an under-assertion that these were totally aboriginal people. White cutters came to the native people and said: "Here is the money, let us take your trees".

Let us talk about who these people are. They are not specifically aboriginal people. If you do not want to listen, fine. However, if you want to hear the answer I will give it to you.

The RCMP are on the reserve investigating. I cannot get involved with the RCMP investigation in any way, shape or form. Charges may or may not be laid. However, we went in there with force and we do not think what was done was right.

The Speaker: Ever so gently, I remind members to please address your answers and the questions to the chair.

Mr. Preston Manning (Calgary Southwest, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, we are not blaming the people on the Stoney Reserve. We are not blaming anyone. We are asking how come the department itself did not enforce its own rules.

Through the inactions of the minister and his department, he has permitted the destruction of an old growth forest on the Stoney Reserve. Because of the federal government's apparent unwillingness to treat all Canadians equally with respect to environmental regulations, Canadians have lost trees that stood for centuries. This cannot be allowed to happen again.

How does the minister intend to ensure that the forest management plans endorsed by his department are not only sound but strictly enforced?

Oral Questions

Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, once again the leader of the Reform is talking out of both sides of his mouth.

At his press conference when he tried to explain his policy, which no one understood, he said that my department has to be dismantled and decentralized in its function of funding transfers to local aboriginal agencies and governments.

Some hon. members: More, more.

Mr. Irwin: Having said that, he sent his Greek chorus throughout B.C. This is what the church said about what they have done.

• (1430)

"The Anglican bishop for northern B.C. has accused the region's Reform MPs of breeding unnecessary fear about the Nishga land claim negotiations. A series of public meetings sponsored by Skeena MP, Mike Scott, is spreading half truths and anxieties among whites about the Nishga land claims".

"The Bishop of Caledonia, Don Hannen said that that is exactly what is being done here today". It is always the Indians' fault, nobody else's. These are half truths.

The Reform leader should talk to his minions and have them go out there and tell the truth to the people of Canada.

The Speaker: I am sure there is no question that all members are interested in the truth. We speak the truth in this House.

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[Translation]

WINNIPEG JETS

Mr. Jean-Paul Marchand (Québec-Est, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification.

The future of certain Canadian team franchises in the National Hockey League may be jeopardized by financial difficulties and limited markets. According to some sources, the Minister of Human Resources Development promised to give the Winnipeg Jets \$10 million in federal funds for the construction of a new amphitheatre.

Does the minister responsible for Western economic diversification confirm that discussions took place or are under way to grant \$10 million to build a new amphitheatre for the Winnipeg Jets?

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to confirm that the private sector group that is engaged in raising private sector funds has made an application under the infrastructure program similar to those applications that were submitted by the cities of