

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, it is because the expenditures had been forecast. Indeed it is a highly technical question. I would be pleased to take notice of it, review it, and provide the hon. gentleman with additional details if such are required.

**Mr. McKinnon:** Incidentally, this item appeared in the 1981-82 Estimates at a cost of \$6.4 million. Since then it has gone up to \$11.8 million, an increase of 84 per cent over \$5 million, on a relatively small contract.

#### OMISSION FROM ESTIMATES

**Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, I am curious to know why it is not mentioned in the Supplementaries or in the Main Estimates. Otherwise, could the Minister assure the House that there is not now a large number of similar Treasury Board agreements that may or may not be mentioned in the Estimates? The Estimates have now gone for consideration by the committee and I am questioning whether we can believe that what is in the Estimates actually represents the spending of the Department of National Defence, or is this just some kind of giant make work project for MPs serving on the standing committee?

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I thought the hon. gentleman was rising to commend me for spending money in his province and his general area. The hospital was announced for the riding of Victoria.

**An Hon. Member:** Esquimalt.

**Mr. Blais:** It is in Victoria, it is Esquimalt, and it is in his area. Undoubtedly the hon. gentleman from Esquimalt-Saanich is very pleased about this amount being spent within his riding.

In terms of the specifics, as to whether it is in the 1981-82 Estimates or the 1983-84 Estimates, I will be before the committee, if not next week, the week after, and I would be very pleased to discuss the whole matter in detail with the hon. gentleman.

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#### ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

##### ROLE OF NATIVE LIBERAL CAUCUS

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask a question of the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, but while I am waiting for her return I will direct a question to the Prime Minister. Yesterday, two days before the constitutional conference opens, the Prime Minister said that the Cabinet had not yet made up its mind on whether it would advocate entrenchment of aboriginal rights in the Constitution.

#### Oral Questions

I have a letter today from a Mr. Tom Pelletier inviting members of the Native Liberal Caucus to meet with government Members to discuss constitutional issues and to advise the Government on them. The letter places all of this in the context of campaign readiness for the next election.

Why is the Government dealing with the aboriginal peoples and constitutional questions on a partisan basis, when the aboriginal peoples have recognized leaders to speak for them? What advice does the Government expect to get from the Native Liberal Caucus that it could not receive from more representative leaders?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I do not recall having met this Mr. Pelletier personally, but from what the Hon. Member quotes in his letter, I see nothing offensive in it. If he is a Liberal who is trying to get Liberals to move in the direction that the Hon. Member suggests, I cannot see how he would be objecting to that either.

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#### INDIAN AFFAIRS

##### DISCRIMINATION IN INDIAN ACT AGAINST WOMEN

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my supplementary question to the Hon. Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Yesterday, in response to my question about Indian Act discrimination against Indian women, the Prime Minister said that this had been ended by the Charter of Rights. Since Indian women still lose their status when they marry non Indians, does the Minister agree with the Prime Minister that discrimination has been abolished, or will he try to educate the Prime Minister on this important issue? Will he bring in a Bill that will end this discrimination?

• (1450)

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the Hon. Member how much I appreciate his statement about support for such a Bill. I assume he is committing his Party to it. I know the Prime Minister is supportive of a Bill of this nature. I have had a chance to discuss it with the Prime Minister and with my colleagues. I will be talking about this initiative which the Hon. Member outlined, with the Indian leadership during the course of the next few days.

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#### AGRICULTURE

##### INCREASE IN FARM BANKRUPTCIES

**Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. If we are to judge him