

Oral Questions

CANADIAN JOBS STRATEGY—CARRY-OVER FUNDING

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister not carry over the unspent moneys from last year into this year so that those Manitobans who need work can have work?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, let me assure the Hon. Member that the Canadian Jobs Strategy is in place and working well. Projects are continuously being approved from the funding for 1986-87. We have seen a tremendous response to the program itself and its various components.

I want to assure the Hon. Member that indeed this is a successful program and I hope he will give it his support.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

* * *

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

LUBICON INDIAN BANK CLAIM—THREAT OF WINTER OLYMPICS
BOYCOTT

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Is he aware that failure to settle the legitimate and outstanding claim of the Lubicon Indian Band in Alberta is attracting increasingly unfavourable international attention? There is even growing talk in Europe about boycotting the 1988 Winter Olympics. Does the Minister not agree that now is the time to honour the commitment to the Lubicon Indian people and not allow this claim to remain unsettled any longer?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I believe all Members of the House would want to join me in indicating to all participating countries in the 1988 Winter Olympics that we know they will be a success and that this issue is not related to the Olympics. In the past these kinds of political issues have too often been linked to the Olympic movement and we would not want to see it happen in Calgary in 1988.

The Hon. Member should be aware that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has been working on this issue and has taken it on as a personal issue which he wants to resolve. I will pass the Hon. Member's representations on to the Minister.

I think the premise that the Hon. Member is presenting is unfair to the Minister and to the actions he has taken so far.

REQUEST FOR COMMITMENT TO RESOLUTION

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Will he use the influence of his office and provide some effective leadership so that this outstanding aboriginal claim can be

settled? I want him personally to make a commitment now that he will take some part in this and help to get it resolved.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister made very firm commitments at the last conference regarding constitutional and aboriginal rights. He wants to resolve these issues. Another conference was scheduled for 1987 and the commitments have been made directly by the Prime Minister, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and other members of the Government.

I repeat what I said to the Hon. Member in regard to the specific case. He knows that the Minister has worked very carefully on this case. The issue before us concerns who will be at the negotiating table. If we can deal with that matter, the issue can be resolved. I know that the Minister wants to resolve it very quickly.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CIA-FUNDED BRAINWASHING EXPERIMENTS

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Documents which were published today reveal that the Canadian Government was not only aware of but collaborated closely with the United States Central Intelligence Agency in secret brainwashing experiments at McGill University in the mid-1950s. In view of the fact that the Canadian victims of this outrage are seeking justice in United States courts today, will the Deputy Prime Minister agree to co-operate fully with their U.S. attorney and immediately make public the George Cooper report on this very serious matter?

Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of my colleague, the Minister of Justice, I will advise the Hon. Member that the Minister is presently seized of this report and is studying it. It is quite voluminous and when he has completed his review he will be reporting in due course.

REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF COOPER REPORT

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, the Government has had this report for some time. I seek a commitment from the Minister that the Canadian Government will stop playing patsy to the United States Government and stand up for Canadian citizens. I ask him very specifically if he is prepared to give a commitment to the House and the victims of these brain-washing experiments that the George Cooper report will in fact be made public?

Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat what I said in response to the first question. The Minister is presently studying the report. He will report back on it in due course.