

*Oral Questions***INDIAN AFFAIRS**

NEGOTIATION OF SELF-GOVERNMENT ISSUE

Mr. Allmand: I am referring to a committee of the Treasury Board.

METHOD OF SETTLEMENT

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, does the Minister deny that this land would have been available for the Long Plains settlement if it had not been for the interference of the Minister of National Health and Welfare? Is that how the Minister carries out his trust responsibility to Indians?

● (1500)

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): No, I will not confirm what the Hon. Member has put forward. What I will confirm is that discussions are ongoing with the Province of Manitoba regarding ways to fulfil entitlement. I am informed that land discussions are taking place with the band and the Government of Manitoba. The Hon. Member must be aware that dividing bands and creating new reserves and bands is not the way to resolve disputes within band councils.

* * *

[Translation]

FINANCE

DEFINITION OF ISOLATED POSTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Finance. Could you tell me whether there will be any changes in the rules for designating the communities where the remote posting status will apply in January 1987? In both the affirmative and the negative, I would like the municipalities of Joutel and Chibougamau to be included in the consultations.

[English]

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): I thank my hon. colleague for his question and commend him for his ongoing interest in this issue. In the February, 1986, Budget the Minister of Finance announced a new permanent system of tax benefits for northern Canada. These measures are now being finalized. They will contain essentially the same criteria for qualification as is currently in place. In addition, transitional relief will be provided for isolated posts which ceased to qualify due to changes in population or access. Full details will be available when the regulations are published.

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. The Minister will recall that at the last First Ministers' Conference the Prime Minister called for a constitutional acknowledgement of the right of Indian communities to self-government. Given that the Government's proposed amendment was rejected because it required prior negotiation of agreements, can the Minister of Justice tell us if the Government is going to be tabling an amendment before the First Ministers' Conference so that the native leaders may give it some consideration?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): I am pleased to respond to that question. A week and a half ago in Toronto we indeed had the first opportunity of meeting with leaders of the aboriginal peoples of Canada and the provincial representatives. I am pleased to be able to report to the House that we have all agreed on a process in terms of a rolling draft where there will be ongoing consultations between now and the First Ministers' meeting. The aboriginal peoples are very satisfied with the direction in which we are going.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides for a question.

* * *

AGRICULTURE

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SECURING GRANTS

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture, but in his absence, the Deputy Prime Minister may be able to reply.

The Government has promised to pay Canadian grain producers an amount of \$1 million to help these producers, who are in trouble—

An Hon. Member: One billion dollars!

Mr. Garneau: —\$ 1 billion in new money. I would like to ask the Government whether it has now decided on what basis this subsidy will be paid. Will it be based on farm production or on the marketing of the grain?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): That is precisely what the Minister of Agriculture is doing right now. The Minister is working with representatives of farm organizations and the provincial Governments to develop the best program to distribute the necessary and badly needed funds to the agriculture sector in a fair and equitable manner.