

Oral Questions

● (1500)

INDIAN AFFAIRS**BAND MEMBERSHIP LISTS—MONITORING OF TRANSFERS**

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister for Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It arises out of a concern expressed to me by the Chief of Sandy Lake, the largest of the 51 reserves in my riding.

The Government is presently compelling Indian bands which have taken over their membership codes to maintain two lists, one for the Department and one for those who are band members under their code. I would like to ask the Minister this. Since apparently the Department has no provisions to ensure that transfers are actually registered, how is it that a Department which is always crying poor and says that it cannot provide extra lands—nor can it provide enough money under C-31, the reinstatement law—can avoid double-funding situations if there is no mechanism to remove somebody from the list of the band from which they are being transferred?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the system of maintaining the memberships that have been transferred to band Governments, the proposition which the Hon. Member puts forward. I will check into it.

However, it is the responsibility of the bands now to maintain their memberships when they request that responsibility. The Member asks a question for which I do not have an answer at this time with respect to duplicate maintenance of membership. I will check into it and report back to him.

SELF-GOVERNMENT DISCUSSIONS

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same Minister who must be aware from press reports today of the frustration expressed by national Chief George Erasmus as regards the lack of progress on self-government.

Can the Minister tell us when the Government will be reopening talks on self-government? Particularly in view of such concerns as double membership lists, can he assure this House that those talks will be about genuine self-government and not simply about the delegation of administrative powers?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the matter of self-government, we have had discussions with representatives of the aboriginal groups with a view to reinstating serious discussions. Unfortunately, the AFN was the only aboriginal group that did not agree to proceed with a plan which would have involved us going together to canvass with the provinces the prospects of a legitimate and serious reinstatement of these talks.

If the Hon. Member has any influence on Mr. Erasmus, now that his election is over, will he ask him to please get on board with the other aboriginal groups? Let us get on with this task.

Mr. Speaker: In view of the hour this will be the last question. The Hon. Member for London East, a single question.

* * *

PORNOGRAPHY**BILL C-54—REQUEST FOR SECOND READING DEBATE**

Mr. Jim Jepson (London East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. The Minister well knows that he has had overwhelming support for his pornography Bill, Bill C-54. Yet it seems stuck at first reading.

Can the Minister tell the House when he might expect Bill C-54 to come forward for second reading and be allowed to go to committee so that Canadians can have an opportunity to make some input to the Bill?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the Hon. Member's great interest in this very important topic. Unfortunately, in some ways the Opposition must not want this matter to get to committee but insists on filibustering the situation.

When we are trying to bring in legislation which in effect gives protection against exploitation of children, and which gives protection against the degradation of women, I think the people of Canada agree with the Hon. Member and will say to themselves: "Thank heavens we have Members like the Hon. Member for London East who have pressed this matter forward".

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Under the circumstances I will take a single question from the Hon. Member for Windsor West.

* * *

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**STATUS OF MEMBER FOR ROSEDALE**

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, after that answer I was tempted to ask the Deputy Government House Leader when was the last time he called Bill C-54. We cannot filibuster a Bill that the Government does not want even to try to bring before the House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!