

have to worry about a proliferation of beneficiaries under the COPE Agreement coming into the Yukon.

● (1450)

As far as the 10 per cent itself is concerned, the first meeting was useful because the business community found out that the interpretation, as verified by Mr. Reisman and the COPE negotiator, was that it only applied to federal contracts, not the wider application that they first reacted toward rather violently.

As I undertook to the Yukon Government and others, I met this morning with Mr. Reisman and Mr. de Leury to see what could be done about examining further alleged detrimental defects as a result of the 10 per cent. We are working on that to see what can be done. I hope to meet with the coalition of businessmen who are concerned about this matter in the North some time within the next seven or eight days. It is too early to predict a solution, except to tell the Hon. Member that we are certainly working on it.

REQUEST THAT FINALIZING OF AGREEMENT BE POSTPONED

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister give a commitment today that that agreement will not go ahead until the particular matter regarding the 10 per cent preferential treatment, no matter where it goes to, is cleared up? It is not just businessmen in the North who are concerned, but native peoples, the Dene, the Metis, the Canadian Federation of Business, and the Canadian Construction Association are all very concerned about it.

The Minister's own policy which says, "in all fairness" all of a sudden does not become quite as fair in this particular instance. I think the Minister will agree that it would be damaging to the Inuit themselves if a preferential treatment were given and caused polarization in the North. That is the last thing we need in these agreements.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the last comment of the Hon. Member rather surprises me. After all the lectures I have received from the Opposition about adopting a rather patronizing, condescending attitude toward native groups, for the Hon. Member to stand up and say that the COPE negotiators did not know what was good for them when they negotiated this clause, is pretty offensive, I find, and I am sure they will too.

Let me tell the Hon. Member that there are other precedents for this type of preference that have been adopted by northern Governments themselves. It is not a new thing; there have been affirmative action programs and preferences under federal Government procurement policies. There are also possibilities for northern native businessmen through joint ventures to get the benefit of this 10 per cent.

I do not want to argue the merits or demerits of the 10 per cent of the floor of the House of Commons, because obviously the Hon. Member has made up his mind. Frankly, I am not

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making up my mind and I am not taking this particular issue to the Government until I have had the other meeting with the businessmen. Until we have had those final meetings which I undertook to have, I do not think it would be proper to come down definitely on one side or the other. I do not think that the Hon. Member should either. We should give both sides a chance to explain their points of view.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

SAFEGUARDING OF DEPARTMENTAL PAPERS AND MEMORANDA

Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of National Revenue. As the Minister will remember, in his cable on December 22 last year, with respect to the district offices terminating quotas, one item was as follows: "If any of the supervisors have used quotas which include income or recovery targets for the individual auditor, you are to advise the inquirer that the practice was contrary to departmental policy and has ceased and the director will issue a letter to all employees cancelling those targets".

May I have the unqualified assurance of the Minister that none of the yearly records of all the employees have in any way been altered since the appointment of Mr. Farlinger of Woods Gordon? May I also have the assurance that all memoranda indicating the existence of quotas as a matter of practice, are still in place?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, to offer this assurance, I would first have to check with all district offices and get in touch with all division directors in those offices. However, I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that Mr. Farlinger is already preparing his study and has been in touch with many senior officials in the Department. He is anxious to fulfil his mandate, and I am sure he will be able to count on the co-operation of all district office managers and all heads of the various sections in each district office, and that he will have access to all the documents he will need to evaluate existing or previous management practices, depending on what he decides to examine in our district offices and at headquarters in Ottawa.

[English]

EMPLOYEES' PERFORMANCE SHEETS

Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister undertake to the House to make enquiries about whether any of the performance sheets of employees of Revenue Canada have in any way been altered, or in any way changed, since the appointment of Mr. Farlinger, or even before the appointment, so that they do not disclose the existence of quotas, which in fact did exist? Would he please undertake to the House to make those inquiries?