

Oral Questions

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I suspect that more people are killed by cars each year. Should we outlaw them? There has to be a consideration of all the factors. Yes, advertising is one factor. Another factor has to do with the agricultural sector, another one has to do with the small business sector, yet another one has to do with the tax and revenue implications.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Andre: Apparently the New Democrats would rather talk than listen, Mr. Speaker. It involves a number of factors and, therefore, there will be a comprehensive program brought in by the Minister of National Health and Welfare. As I have just said, I have indicated the willingness in our Department to have it included.

Mr. McCurdy: Do it.

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EMPLOYMENT

SINGLE INDUSTRY COMMUNITIES' CONCERNS

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. It concerns the Canadian Single Industry Communities Report that was tabled last week. Could the Minister tell this House after reviewing the report, which indicates 20 years of mismanagement by the Liberal Government, on 800 communities, what steps our Government will be taking to try to address the concerns of single industry communities across the country?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there is a very good question. Indeed, last week, I received a copy of a report by the Canada Employment and Immigration Advisory Council on single-industry communities. Within the framework of the Employment Strategy, one of the main components for which we are providing \$80 million in funding this year deals especially with high unemployment communities, where the development of new economic initiatives is essential. I therefore think that we are carrying on in the same direction, and already the results lead us to believe that the thrust of those community development programs is excellent.

[*English*]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

CREE-NASKAPI AGREEMENT—OBSERVANCE BY GOVERNMENT

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. As the Minister knows, an independent commission headed by the distinguished Justice Rejean Paul has charged the Government of Canada with the legal and moral failure to live up to its financial obligations related to the Cree-Naskapi Act, an agreement which was passed by this House in 1984. How does the Minister of Indian Affairs respond to these charges of immoral and illegal behaviour by the Government of Canada in relation to Indian people and an agreement passed by this House?

● (1500)

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I refer the Hon. Member to the statement I tabled along with the Cree-Naskapi Commission report. Given that the Cree indicated today they intend to bring this case before the courts, further comment would be inappropriate at this time.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the Minister's statement with respect to the report. I am asking him when he will stop manufacturing excuses and begin to carry out his constitutional responsibility to the Cree people of northern Quebec?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows that he is putting me in a very difficult position given that the case is now proceeding to court. I again refer him and other Hon. Members to the statement I tabled with the Cree-Naskapi report.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that in order for the forthcoming First Ministers' conference to succeed the Government must be seen as respecting its obligations, will the Prime Minister undertake that Canada's first self-government agreement, namely, the Cree-Naskapi Act and the agreements made under it, will be honoured in future by his Government?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, my reply to the Hon. Member has to be the same as I gave to the Hon. Member preceding him. I would like to comment on it, but I can only refer him to the statement which I tabled in this House along with the Cree-Naskapi Commission report.