

## INDIAN AFFAIRS

### REINSTATEMENT OF FORMER STATUS HOLDERS—PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs. The Government has made a complete shambles of the implementation process of Bill C-31 providing for the reinstatement of Indian people who had lost status through unfair and discriminatory laws. Instead of the Government honouring its commitment that no band would be made worse off because of Bill C-31, almost the entire burden has been put on the individuals themselves, mostly women, and on the bands, their councils and chiefs.

Why has the Government not followed through with its commitment to provide adequate funding so that no Indian band would be made worse off after Bill C-31 than before? Why is the Government making an already difficult situation between reinstated people and their bands more difficult by not making the resources available?

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member's premise is completely false. Under the provisions of Bill C-31, dollars are made available for implementation. Once membership and status are established, the programs that are available to other status Indians in Canada are automatically made available to the returnees under Bill C-31 as of the date of application, not as of the date membership has been recognized by the Department through the review process.

The Government has identified dollars. Housing dollars are made available for those people who indicate that they would return to their bands and to reserves. The Government is honouring and will continue to honour the commitments made.

One thing the Hon. Member should be aware of is that the committee assumed that the maximum number of people asking to be reinstated would be in the neighbourhood of 68,000 to 75,000. We now anticipate that there will be some 90,000 individual applications made for reinstatement under Bill C-31.

### LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, the system is completely backed up. Less than one-third of the 90,000 applications have been processed. Only 12 bands have had membership codes approved and that provision expires at the end of this year.

Will the Minister guarantee to the House that he will seek more funding for the reinstatement process when the present funds run out because they are completely inadequate to do the job?

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, the dollars provided by

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the legislation are still there. The dollars that were recommended by Government and approved are still there to be used by those bands with returnees.

The Hon. Member says that only 12 codes have been recognized. The legislation, in a compromise situation to try to accommodate different points of view, established a two-year time period in which bands could put forward membership codes and have them accepted if they wished to take charge of the membership of their people rather than have the Department do so, and I hope they all take advantage of that opportunity. The point is that over the two-year period we have assisted Indian bands in establishing membership codes so they could provide for their own people and have control of those membership codes as the legislation allows.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

#### PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF DELEGATION TO CHINA

**Mr. Speaker:** Pursuant to Standing Order 101, I have the honour to present to the House in both official languages—

[Translation]

—the report on the official visit to China by a delegation of the Parliament of Canada—

[English]

—April 19 to May 2, 1987.

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[Translation]

### CRTC

#### TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT

**Mrs. Claudy Maily (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 67(2), I have the honour of tabling the annual report of the CRTC.

Pursuant to Standing Order 67(4), the report is deemed to have been referred to the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture.

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### TELEFILM CANADA

#### TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT

**Mrs. Claudy Maily (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing