

Questions

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):
1. 1,075.

2. English, 1,050; French, 25.

3. So far as is known, French copies were distributed only to those firms or individuals who specifically requested them. Any distribution to English-speaking firms which had not requested copies in French would have been unintentional.

**SPEECH BY MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT**

Question No. 464—Mr. Howard (Skeena):

1. Did the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development deliver a speech on October 2, 1969 to the Saskatchewan Liberal Women's Federation meeting in Regina and, if so, was this speech distributed and to whom?

2. How many copies of this speech were reproduced?

3. What was the total actual and estimated cost of preparing, reproducing, collating, stapling and mailing of these copies?

4. Was this same speech with minor modifications reproduced under a title page entitled, "Statement by the Honourable Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development based on a speech delivered in Regina, October 2, 1969" and, if so, was the reproduction distributed and to whom?

5. How many copies of the reproduction referred to in part 4 were reproduced?

6. What was the total actual and estimated cost of preparing, reproducing, collating, stapling and mailing the reproduction referred to in part 4?

7. What minor modifications, in detail, were made to the original speech?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): 1. Yes—M.P.'s and Senators, Press Media, Chiefs of Indian Bands, General Mailing Lists.

2. 3573 (English), 600 (French).

3. \$247.

4. Yes. To general mailing list including subscribers to the Indian News. The remaining copies are used to answer public requests on the subject.

5. 57,500.

6. \$4,600.

7. Original speech with minor modifications in detail follows.

"The Government Policy on Indians
What is the Debate About?"

A speech by the Honourable Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to the Saskatchewan Women's Liberal Federation, Regina, Saskatchewan, October 2, 1969.

In June I announced the Government's proposals for an Indian policy. I hoped that a vigorous debate might start over the policy proposals put forward. The debate duly began and is continuing, but much of it is not over the proposals advanced by the government. The debate has become clouded because of misunderstandings, misinterpretation, and a lack of knowledge on the part of the Canadian public of the Indian situation.

The policy Statement is pretty clearly written. The English, French and Cree texts agree with each other. It is a straightforward document. But while in this age of instant communication everyone knows within minutes that an announcement has been made, few seem to find out what it was that was announced.

Let me explain.

The statement is NOT a final policy decision to be implemented regardless of what anyone else says.

The Statement does NOT propose or suggest that Indian reserves should be abolished.

The Statement does NOT propose that the provincial governments should take over responsibility for Indian land.

The Statement does NOT propose to disregard the Treaties and end them unilaterally.

The Statement does NOT propose that the federal government "abandon" the Indian people to the provinces without ensuring that the provinces have the resources to maintain and improve upon the existing level of programs and services.

The Statement does Not suggest that Indians, or Indian bands should be given clear, freehold title to their land within five years—or indeed within any period of time at all.

The Statement does NOT advocate any weakening of Indian culture or identity. It does NOT advocate the assimilation of Indian people.

The statement is clear on all these points. On many occasions, both privately and publicly, to Indian and non-Indian people alike, I have tried to clear up these misinterpretations.

Now what does the policy statement say?

It says that the time has come to change a system which has been discriminatory and paternalistic towards Indian people.