

base go beyond Happy Valley and seriously affect industries in other parts of Newfoundland, and in view of the fact that the premier of Newfoundland said last night on national TV that the situation was scandalous, that he was not aware of it, would the minister indicate whether he was advised by the United States government that the base would close, what decisions were reached, and what information he gave the United States embassy as to whom they should give the information?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I can only conclude that if the premier was unaware of this development his communications system within his government needs some improvement.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE NO DENIAL OF SECOND QUARTER FUNDING FOR FAILURE TO MEET JULY 1 DEADLINE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development who, in his attempt to blame the Indians, neglected to answer the question asked by my colleague from Battle River. Again I ask the minister: Will he give the House a commitment now that Indian bands will not be denied second quarter funding if they fail to meet the July 1 deadline with reference to the guidelines, and will he advise band councils in writing immediately of any new deadlines that are going to be established?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, I think the problem is more in the minds of hon. members opposite. My understanding is that the problems are being worked out. Basically most of the guidelines are acceptable; the ones that are not are being changed or modified, and the problem is in the process of being resolved.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): One supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I put the same question for the third time. Will those bands that do not respond by July 1 suffer a cutting off of second quarter funding—yes or no—and will the minister give us a commitment in the House now that bands will be allowed to develop guidelines, whatever reasonable time it takes, which will meet the unique situation of the various and different bands in the country? Can we have that yes or no answer now and have a commitment in principle?

Mr. Buchanan: Mr. Speaker, what in fact the hon. member proposed in the final part of his question is what we are doing.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Nonsense.

Mr. Buchanan: Nonsense to you. In fact, in most cases the guidelines are being accepted; in other cases we are modifying them. In about 10 per cent of the cases we are using the old proposals and suggestions and there is no problem. I suggest that 95 per cent of the problem is right there on the other side of the House.

Oral Questions

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): What about the July 1 deadline? What does it take to get an answer?

[Translation]

ALLEGED IMMINENT EXPULSION OF CERTAIN WOMEN FROM CAUGHNAWAGA RESERVE—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Considering that about sixty women from the Caughnawaga Indian Reserve will probably be expelled next July 5 simply for having married white men, is the minister aware of the distress of these women and, if so, what measures is he contemplating in this respect?

[English]

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, there is no question that this is a very sensitive and difficult area. However, I talked a couple of days ago to representatives of the band at Caughnawaga and they assured me that they were trying to deal with the situation in a fair and equitable fashion. One area in which they have agreed to make an exception is in the case of widows, women who are over 60 years of age. It was indicated that they would not be expelled.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

STATISTICS INDICATING CANADA'S POSITION IN RELATION TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN TERMS OF TIME LOST THROUGH STRIKES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Yesterday the minister was not able to answer respecting certain statements that have been made by the Canadian Labour Congress as to our strike record being the seventh worst among other industrial countries, whereas other members of the government had used the figure of second worst behind Italy. Has the minister's department in fact accurate records as to whether our strike record is second worst among certain industrial countries or seventh worst, or has the department any independent figures of its own so that the minister could, on an appropriate occasion, tell the Canadian people what our record is compared with other industrial countries?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I know that to be precise in an area such as this is quite difficult, since various standards of measurement are used in various countries for purposes of comparison. As far as the data released by the Canadian Labour Congress is concerned, I have not had a chance and neither has my department of checking their findings in terms of putting the credibility of the Canadian government behind them at this stage.

Mr. Fraser: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister whether he can tell the House if in fact his own department compiles records that can be used