

*Inquiries of the Ministry***NORTHERN AFFAIRS****IMPLEMENTATION OF LAND USE REGULATIONS—
PERFORMANCE BONDS**

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. When are the regulations respecting land use operations in the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories coming into effect?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Soon, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member have a supplementary question?

[*English*]

Mr. Harding: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the required posting of \$100,000 performance bonds by the two oil companies doing work on Banks Island in the Arctic, why has this regulation not been applied to all companies doing similar work in the Arctic area?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would not think that this question as asked is in order.

* * *

INDIAN AFFAIRS**ATHABASCA-PEACE DELTA—ACTION TO OFFSET LOSS OF
WATER CAUSED BY BENNETT DAM**

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, who is doing so well today, whether he has had discussions with the government of the province of Alberta with a view to providing either a dam or other works in the Athabasca-Peace delta to compensate for loss of water caused by the Bennett dam?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, this is a very complex problem in which two provincial governments are involved as well as the federal government since it is responsible for Indians who live in this area. We have initiated consultations with Indians. I personally met with their counsel who intends to take action against the British Columbia Hydro Commission about damages they suffered and I think this may be the procedure in the circumstances, because the Bennett dam was built in British Columbia, not in Alberta.

[*English*]

Mr. Baldwin: In light of the fact that it has now been suggested by knowledgeable engineers that there cannot be enough water released from the Bennett dam to make this compensation, will the minister be prepared to cooperate with the government of Alberta, if it should ask for aid for that purpose, of course, in arranging for some

[Mr. Benson.]

works to be constructed in the area in question so that these people, including the Indians in question, can be helped?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I was in Edmonton two weeks ago and I discussed that problem with the Indians of Alberta. It was agreed that a meeting will soon be held between the Alberta premier, the president of the Indians in that province and myself to discuss all the problems. It was specifically mentioned that we should examine the problem of Indians in the Athabasca area.

[*English*]

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this Peace River-Athabasca delta problem has further reduced the ability of the Indian people in the area to make a living, would the minister be willing now to respond meaningfully to the Alberta government proposal to settle the question of the Wood Buffalo Park boundaries so that any industrial development that might take place would then be able to proceed?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, we have a well-established policy on the matter and I do not think that it would be proper at the moment to reduce the present number of territories for conservation purposes. However, we have indicated to the Alberta government that we are ready to consider an exchange, if necessary, provided that our national parks system would not be the loser.

* * *

[*English*]

GRAIN**BARLEY—AMOUNT OF FINAL PAYMENT TO FARMERS**

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration who is in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the widespread conjecture and concern of Prairie farmers that there will be little or no final payment on the 1970-71 barley pool owing to the large cash forward sales at the lower prices prevailing last spring, would the minister inform the House whether or not this will likely be the situation?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot inform the House at this stage. It has been indicated before that until a pool has been closed or a calculation made, this information is not available.

**AVAILABILITY OF BOXCARS—EFFICIENCY OF BLOCK
SYSTEM ALLOCATION**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, in view of the considerable amount of space in terminals at Thunder Bay, and in view of complaints at a number of local points of a lack of boxcars to move grain forward, would the minister assure the House that the railway companies will provide adequate transportation in the near future to improve this situation?