

Oral Questions

recourse. We are talking about gun registration, not rights of hunting and fishing.

Maybe I should not be so pleased. Perhaps it is just a sign of desperation of how far the Reform Party has gone in trying to save what is now a losing position.

Mr. Jay Hill (Prince George—Peace River, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, a sign of desperation is when a minister cannot answer yes or no. Did he violate the constitutional rights, yes or no?

According to Peter Hogg, a leading constitutional lawyer, "Any law that had the effect of impairing an existing aboriginal right would be subject to judicial review to determine whether it was justified impairment".

My supplementary question is for the minister of Indian affairs, who hopefully understands the crown's fiduciary obligation: Is Bill C-68 a justified impairment of aboriginal rights, yes or no?

Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice has said on numerous occasions about the right to gather food as a broad right—not necessarily an aboriginal right but an aboriginal and non-aboriginal right—that these rights will be facilitated.

Let us take the logic of the hon. member to the extreme. He is saying that it is okay for Cree to go there and hunt seal or caribou with an AK-47, with an assault weapon, with a Sherman tank. This defies logic; it is incorrect.

• (1150)

What the Minister of Justice is doing does not break the spirit or intent of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

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[Translation]

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE IN KINGSTON

Mr. Roger Pomerleau (Anjou—Rivière-des-Prairies, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence.

Since the Collège militaire royal in Saint-Jean was closed, the Minister of National Defence and the Prime Minister have repeatedly stressed their intention of making the Royal Military College in Kingston the showcase of Canadian bilingualism.

How does the defence minister explain that the information about the Kingston college on Internet is available in English only?

[English]

Hon. David M. Collenette (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it seems that during my week's absence when I was in Europe the hon. members of the Bloc Québécois missed me. I certainly did not miss them.

[Translation]

I said several times in the House of Commons that the Royal Military College of Canada we established in Kingston is fully bilingual. We put in place all the procedures required to make the college fully bilingual. Most courses are given in both official languages, French and English.

In the future, most of the teachers will speak both official languages, and I think that if the hon. member paid a visit to the city of Kingston, he would see for himself that the Royal Military College of Canada is a truly bilingual institution.

Mr. Roger Pomerleau (Anjou—Rivière-des-Prairies, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question was on Internet and not on the college itself.

Can the Minister of National Defence promise in this House—although it seems difficult to extract a commitment from him—that corrective measures will be taken and that, from now on, the information about the Kingston college on Internet will be available in both official languages?

[English]

Hon. David M. Collenette (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, all the promotions for the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston are in both official languages. If for some reason what the hon. member has said is true, I will certainly look into it.

I have to underscore the fact that all the promotional material and all the required documentation in training is in both languages. In fact, I think I will invite the member to watch a film we have prepared to attract French language students. I think it is something he will want to watch for his own edification.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. John Duncan (North Island—Powell River, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, just to clarify, the Reform Party does recognize treaty rights as solemn and binding obligations on the part of government.

The minister of Indian affairs has negotiated a draft co-management agreement for three million acres with the Montreal Lake Band near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, without the participation of the province and without consulting rural municipalities. These are vigorously opposing the draft because it tramples on their responsibilities.