

[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE****ASSISTANCE TO POTATO GROWERS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the meetings which took place between himself and representatives of the potato growing provinces and because of the increasing concern of the potato farmers, I would like to ask him whether he could make a statement about the meetings he had with those representatives or whether he could at least assure the House that he will make a statement next week in order to remedy the difficulties of that group of farmers?

[English]

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I have held a number of meetings and a committee has been established, made up of officials of both provincial and federal Departments of Agriculture, to find ways and means by which we can take early action to strengthen the market for potatoes. We have not reached an agreement as to the best means of achieving this objective.

**GRASSHOPPERS—CONTINGENCY PLAN TO AVERT PLAGUE NEXT SUMMER**

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. In light of what appears to be growing concern that there may be a grasshopper plague in western Canada next summer—

**An hon. Member:** Is that what you call yourselves?

**Mr. Murta:** —is the government going to organize a contingency plan to avert such a plague and, if so, is it going to conduct discussions with the provincial governments this fall?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I know there is some concern in certain areas about the higher grasshopper egg count. Of course, the primary responsibility lies with the provinces but any assistance we can give will be forthcoming.

**BERTHA ARMY WORM INFESTATION—ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS**

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, let me say to the Minister of Transport that a plague will occur in Assiniboia during the election, and there is no doubt about that. I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether the government has yet agreed to assist the provinces in aiding farmers hurt by the Bertha army worm infestation this summer?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** No, Mr. Speaker, no statement of that nature has been made.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, may I get, through

*Income Tax Act*

you, the unanimous consent of this House, so as to answer a question which was put to me yesterday?

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is seeking unanimous consent of the House to reply to a question he was asked earlier.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

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[Translation]

**INDIAN AFFAIRS****STUDY OF HILL REPORT ON FUTURE OF MOHAWK INSTITUTE—POLICY STATEMENT**

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to reply to the hon. member for Brant who put a question to me, on Wednesday, regarding the Hill report on the Six Nations reservation, in Brantford.

I must say that this report has been ordered by the Indian Council, and is presently considered by them. This is not a departmental report. We are aware of it, but the Council of the bands has not so far seen fit to discuss it with officials from my department. When they do, I shall be pleased to report to the hon. member.

● (12:20 p.m.)

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS****INCOME TAX ACT**

The House resumed, from Thursday, October 7, consideration of the motion of Mr. Gray (for Mr. Benson) that Bill C-259 to amend the Income Tax Act and to make certain provisions and alterations in the statute law related to or consequential upon the amendments to that act, be read the second time and referred to the committee of the whole.

**Mr. Melvin McQuaid (Cardigan):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to take part in this debate because I feel the proposed legislation, Bill C-259, is probably one of the most important pieces of legislation that has come before this House for some considerable time. It is important first of all because it affects so many people. It affects them in a vital way inasmuch as it has an effect on the contribution they would make by way of taxation to the treasury of the country. It is important also because I believe it is the most comprehensive revision of the Income Tax law we have had since 1917, almost 54 years ago.

I can only express regret that legislation as important as this is expressed in such involved, complicated and technical language that it is practically impossible, not only for the ordinary taxpayer who is to be affected by it but also the professional men such as chartered accountants and members of the legal profession, to understand it.