

Motions for Papers

The minister goes on to say as follows, and I am quoting from the last paragraph:

At the root of the Indian reaction to the proposals is distrust of government and Canadian society as a whole. This must change.

What the House heard yesterday, when added to the statements the minister has made about this matter, will go a long way towards substantiating that distrust and suspicion. Is the minister really concerned about his policy statement? I really believe he wishes to bring it into effect. We must not forget that the native Indian people of Canada have generally rejected that policy statement. They say, "Do not proceed in this direction until, in conscience, you have dealt with our fundamental hereditary, treaty and land rights first." If the minister is sincere and honest in his wish to proceed with his policy on Indian affairs and see the matter come to some conclusion, and if he and the government really, honestly want to do something worth while in the field of Indian affairs so that we can adopt a posture towards the Indian people that will not lead them to distrust and suspect us more, then I ask, how can he square that desire with the declaration made to that great group, the Liberal women of Saskatchewan, yesterday? By making such declarations he is not doing a single, solitary thing to promote his cause or the cause of the Indian people. This is a disastrous situation and reflects what I consider gross dishonesty on the part of the government.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. May I at this time announce what the business will be tonight at the time of adjournment. The questions are as follows: the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)—old age security—inquiry as to amending bill; the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch)—federal buildings—Vancouver—new project and "Project 200"; the hon. member for Surrey (Mr. Mather)—pollution—regulations respecting automobiles—inquiry as to action.

The House will now continue with private members' hour.

[Mr. Howard (Skeena).]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO POLICY STATEMENT BY MINISTER

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Howard (Skeena):

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House a copy of all notes made at all meetings or conversations between the government or any agency or department thereof and any provincial government or agency or department thereof since June 25, 1969 relating to the policy statement on Indian Affairs made in the House of Commons by the Honourable Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development on June 25, 1969.

Mr. Russell C. Honey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, it might be helpful in my initial remarks if I were to attempt to deal with what seemed to be the point of the argument of the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard). As I understand it, he contends that there is a contradiction as between the statement made by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) and the statement I made yesterday in this House with respect to the return of his motion. I should like to deal with that. Then, I should like to deal with what I consider is the real subject matter this House must determine with respect to this motion. I might say, in an aside, that I do not think we have to determine whether there is a contradiction, as my hon. friend suggested. That was an interesting point and I shall have no difficulty in demolishing that argument.

What is the narrow point of this motion, Mr. Speaker? Is it whether or not the notes and conversations the hon. member asked for are indeed privileged, or does it turn on whether they should be produced? I shall deal with that matter in the second phase of my remarks.

To illustrate the contradiction, my friend of course went to some lengths in quoting the minister. He also quoted from the report of my remarks in yesterday's *Hansard*. What the hon. member requests in his motion, Mr. Speaker, and this is a matter of record, is a copy of all notes or conversations between any federal government agency and the agency of any provincial government. This matter, of course, is related to the white paper on Indian policy that was presented to