

Yukon and Territorial Lands Acts

ter wants the floor now, as the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) suggested he need only ask for unanimous consent to have the floor for the purpose of explaining this very important point. I am sure there would be no disagreement by members of the opposition. Could the minister have unanimous consent to explain the regulations?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Baldwin: Don't be shy.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): The Minister of Justice should not talk about the minister not being able to get the floor, using that as an argument to deny Parliament information to which it is entitled.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) is having a little logistical fun this afternoon. Of course, any regulations would not become operative until the enabling power, the statute, is passed by Parliament. It would be very presumptuous for the minister to state the regulations before Parliament adopted the enabling statute giving birth to those regulations.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Replying to the point of order, Mr. Speaker, if it is presumptuous of the minister to make these regulations known to Parliament before the bill is passed, I say it was even more presumptuous for the minister to have made that declaration to a private group outside of Parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Howard (Skeena): The minister had no right to do that. That is even more insulting than what the Minister of Justice conceives it would be for the minister to do so today. I think the picture is clear. The minister has these regulations. They have been developed and the minister knows what they are. For some unknown reason the minister refuses to take Parliament into his confidence.

Mr. Lewis: Maybe he is ashamed of them.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): I have never known the minister to be ashamed of anything he has done so far.

Mr. Lewis: He should have been.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Why should he start now? In any event, these regulations do exist. Although they have been developed, they are kept as a secret document. This is the traditional Liberal attitude.

[Mr. Howard (Skeena).]

Mr. Chrétien: I implement some of your ideas, and then you deny them.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Those are the weak parts of the bill.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): The minister may implement some of the ideas but he always leaves out the crucial and important parts. The minister seeks support from around the country. He always chooses the minority view to support him. He does that all the time. He refuses to accept the view of the majority where it is limited—

Mr. Chrétien: The Indians from Skeena.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): If the minister thinks that the Niska tribe council comprises all the Indians in Skeena, he is wrong. He is also wrong in his geography. If this is so, he should be replaced. He does not know what goes on in that territory.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): We get our support every four years.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Out of a quarter of a million people the minister chooses the views of 1,000 people and says that is the view that will prevail. The minister supports the minority view of the 1,000 and completely disregards the overwhelming majority rejection of his concepts.

Mr. Chrétien: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I wish to point out to the hon. member that he is completely out of order. I will not take the time of this House to read what he has said in the House of Commons about the Indian policy. He said it was his own idea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I would point out that the minister is also out of order. Having said that, possibly we could return to the bill before the House.

Mr. Lewis: You can steal his ideas, but not his time.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): If the minister had not dragged us into the question of what is representative among the Indian people in Skeena, we would not have gotten into that subject. In his informative address to the Canadian Transportation Research Forum the minister disclosed many matters that he refuses to disclose to Parliament. He made reference to the Arctic land use research program which in its shortened form is referred