

genocide, is the minister prepared to adopt a flexible approach to treaty rights and other controversial aspects of this matter?

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, in the document we tabled yesterday in the house, it is clearly established that we want to allow the Indians to integrate socially and economically in our society, that we want to help them preserve their cultural heritage, which is part of the Canadian heritage.

[English]

**Mr. Yewchuk:** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister undertake to meet immediately the executive of the Indian Association of Alberta which claims that this proposal was written in isolation from the Indian people?

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I said that I intended to meet in coming weeks the various provincial authorities to discuss those proposals, and the province of Alberta is included in my itinerary.

[English]

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In those cases where Indian people prefer not to change the present system, will they be allowed to continue living under present conditions, pending further consultation?

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I think there is no doubt that the Indians want to be first class citizens in our society, and we are going to discuss the most appropriate means to make that possible.

[English]

**Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary or related question to direct to the minister. Does the statement which terms aboriginal claims to land as being unrealistic and not capable of being dealt with specifically represent a fixed government policy, or is this merely an idea which has been put forward for discussion and negotiation with the Indian people?

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, this proposal has become part of the government's policy. The government acknowledges the legal rights of the Indians and the rights derived

from legal documents. As for the other rights, they are the same as those of the Canadian citizens.

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON—DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CANADIAN AND U.S. MINISTERS ON SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

**Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Prime Minister.

Would he tell the house why or for what purpose the government decided to send such important Canadian officials and members of the government, to the twelfth Canada-U.S. meeting? What is the purpose of that numerous delegation?

**The Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, when I met President Nixon, a few months ago, we agreed to hold these meetings where several matters under the jurisdiction of several ministers and departments would be discussed. This is why there are, I understand, three ministers as well as the officials who assist them.

[English]

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Prime Minister assure the house that either the minister leading the delegation in Washington or one of the ministers with him will report to the house on the conversations now taking place when they return tomorrow?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs is leading the delegation. I will consult him to see whether he has anything to report which will have the approval of the opposition.

**Mr. Lewis:** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the Prime Minister inform the house now about the agenda of items being discussed? What subjects are our Canadian ministers talking about with members of the United States cabinet?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, the general subjects were indicated by me to the house at the time I saw President Nixon a few months ago. They cover such general areas as trade, economic relations, certain specific commodities and so on. It will be up to the minister to decide how much of the discussions it is in the interests of the house to hear in his report. It will be up to the opposition to indicate once again if the trip was worth while.