

seems to me that the question the hon. member put to me as Acting Minister of National Revenue in the House, at this time, deals precisely with what the commissioners are doing. I therefore have nothing to add. I read the official report of the questions put in the House Friday, and the leader of the government answered them very well.

[English]

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** I would refer the hon. minister to a news release attaching a copy of the agreement dated September 29, 1977, issued by the present minister for whom she responds in this House. In that letter, the present minister for whom she replies indicated that everything done under this agreement has been legal. I am not referring to the McDonald commission. I would refer the hon. lady to depositions—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** —before the Laycraft commission, and I warn the hon. lady—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** I will repeat what I said on Friday and suggest the hon. lady consider the Laycraft report due in late June, which will have a good deal to say about this matter. Will the hon. lady answer my question? Will she say whether she approves of the letter, since she was minister of national revenue, signed by her predecessor which is in direct contradiction to the views expressed by the minister she represents in the House today?

● (1442)

[Translation]

**Miss Bégin:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Leader of the Opposition could explain to his colleague how he may call me if he has difficulties when referring to our titles.

As for the question about the substance and legality of some actions by the RCMP, that is the mandate of the McDonald royal commission. As to the findings of the Laycraft inquiry, I will examine the report with interest and seriousness as soon as it is made public.

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[English]

## NORTHERN AFFAIRS

### FUNDING OF NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS FOR LAND CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It has come to my attention that the native organizations in the Northwest Territories have not received funding for the purpose of land claims research and negotiations for the new fiscal year.

In view of the fact that the native organizations require funding in order to hire competent staff to conduct research,

## Oral Questions

formulate proposals and above all, pursue land claims negotiations in good faith, will the minister please tell this House why there has been a delay in funding, and would he also indicate when the native organizations will receive notification of their funding?

**Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I should clarify an important point. The hon. member refers to native organizations in the Northwest Territories. In fact, he is talking about two native organizations in the Mackenzie Valley. The native organization, COPE, in the Delta is being funded. I just recently had a luncheon with the president of ITC and discussed an important meeting in Repulse Bay regarding the ITC claim. So we are talking about two organizations.

I think the hon. member understands as well as I do why I proposed, about a month ago, instituting a moratorium. The answer is very simple. We all agree that there should be one settlement in the Mackenzie Valley. There are two political organizations. I have said I am prepared to start negotiations with either the two of them together or a third one representing both. However, if we are aiming for one settlement in the Mackenzie Valley, there must be a negotiating team representing all the people in the valley: that is the reason for the moratorium.

**Mr. Firth:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Metis Association of the Northwest Territories will be forced to lay off its land claims staff this coming Friday unless funds are forthcoming, and in view of the fact that this turn of events will negate several years of hard work done by this organization, I would ask the minister if he will take it upon himself to meet with this organization in good faith and see that the native organizations are provided with the means to bring the land claims question to a just settlement.

**Mr. Faulkner:** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, I will be prepared to do anything to ensure that a just settlement in the Mackenzie Valley is achieved. That is my wish, the hon. member's wish and, I think, the wish of the people in the valley. I am also prepared to meet with the political organizations if a meeting with me would in any way facilitate the setting up of a negotiating forum which would allow for a single settlement in the valley, which is the type of settlement everyone is anxious to have.

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## FITNESS AND AMATEUR SPORT

### MANDATE OF DEPARTMENT

**Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport). While participating in the federal-provincial conference of ministers responsible for sport, fitness and recreation, held in Montreal on April 13, the minister was reported to have said, "My clear mandate in sport and fitness does not in any way deal with recreation".