

Oral Questions

[English]

Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I read the article in *La Presse*. It is a very respected paper, but a very speculative article. It was based on a 1991 Statistics Canada examination. Even in that article it will be noted that Statistics Canada was unable to get reports from 78 First Nations.

In 1993 a corporate management group was put together with the bottom line of better fiscal regimes, a better basis for this type of interplay between ministries. There have been difficulties.

As my friend knows, in the last eight or nine years there has been a tremendous population explosion. The birth rate on reserves is twice that of the non-aboriginal birth rate. With respect to the C-31 returnees, when we passed the legislation the speculation was that perhaps there would be a 10 per cent increase on reserve. In fact, it is almost 40 per cent.

Not all these things are done strictly on numbers. It is more an art form than a science. When we build a road, put in a health service or look at a school, we are looking to the future. If a band has 250 when it should have 300, or 350 when it should have 300, we are still going to go with the project. We look at the project more than the numbers.

I want to assure the hon. member this government is not in the business of giving money to non-existent, non-aboriginal people.

[Translation]

Mr. Claude Bachand (Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, does the minister not agree that the only way to determine the native population on reserves is by ensuring that Statistics Canada census takers have access to these lands?

• (1430)

[English]

Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I totally agree with the member. He probably knows me well enough now that when I put out money I want to see a product and I am looking for stricter fiscal regimes.

As part of self-government negotiations we are looking at those things. There may be more freedom as far as jurisdiction is concerned but there has to be more strict fiscal regimes, improved fiscal responsibility and a better database synchronizing the collection of the data so that it comes in at one time. This will ensure there are stricter regimes, not only for aboriginal people but for the employees at DIAND who are doing the analysis. I agree with him. It is there. It is being studied. There will be work plans out that my friend can examine because the First Nations will be examining them over the next two or three years.

IMMIGRATION

Miss Deborah Grey (Beaver River): Mr. Speaker, the minister of immigration has on several occasions said that immigrants who commit crimes are few and far between.

This is no comfort to the family of Constable Todd Baylis of the Toronto police department who was gunned down last week by an immigrant who had been ordered deported in March 1991.

Can the minister tell the House how it is that after having been ordered out of the country and after having an appeal denied, this 10-time repeat criminal could still be in Canada to commit the terrible crime for which he is now charged?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the minister of immigration and all members of the House, I want to express our real sympathy for the very tragic circumstances and give all our condolences to the family of Constable Baylis who was tragically killed on the weekend.

As the House knows, the minister of immigration has just introduced new immigration legislation which is designed specifically to provide for more effective tools of enforcement. I am told by him that his department was successful in both getting a deportation order and also having any recourse to appeal dismissed.

However, the hon. member should recognize that in many cases and in particular this case the Canadian government has difficulty in obtaining travel documents from other countries to which the deportee has been assigned. As a result the minister of immigration is now seriously investigating this case to ensure that these kinds of practices do not continue.

Miss Deborah Grey (Beaver River): Mr. Speaker, we do appreciate the concern on the government side but this just continues to happen week after week after week. We bring in examples of this.

I believe these particular reforms would have had no effect in this case. Clinton Gayle was ordered deported but that order, like thousands more, was not carried out.

Under this minister, staff on the front lines have been cut and as a result only 40 per cent of deportation orders are being carried out. There are now only 30 officers responsible for the deportation of 40,000 illegal immigrants in Toronto.

Will the minister admit that his alleged deportation reforms are virtually useless because of his cuts to enforcement and will he accept accountability for this latest, needless tragedy.

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification): Mr. Speaker, I would if I might be allowed to repeat one important fact in this case. The government did obtain a deportation order. However, in order to have deportation orders