

It is evident from this article that the minister in charge of the Wheat Board is aware of the plight of the western farmer but he does not seem to be able to influence his colleagues in the cabinet. I say that in his position, if he is to remain honest, he should have the intestinal fortitude to do as two other members of the cabinet have done and disassociate himself from a group so callously indifferent to the needs of agriculture.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Downey:** Both the ministers who are concerned with agriculture are presently in the House. At hearings of the Committee on Agriculture, it has been evident that their concern is for larger and more efficient agricultural units. We all know what it is like when farms get larger; one large four-wheel drive tractor replaces six old units. Fences have to be torn up and everything bulldozed down to make large fields. It seems we are going in this direction all the time. It raises problems of ecology. The fence lines are the habitat of birds and wildlife, the pheasant and the prairie chicken. I do not understand why fish and game associations are not more concerned about this. Surely, we need to look at the total picture in regard to ecology. The hunters who come in the fall and the tourists contribute to the small towns. This policy of consolidating farms into large units will do away with the things that attract them to the country regions. The tourist industry is one of our few remaining natural assets. The area I come from is well known for the goose, the prairie chicken and the pheasant and with the consolidation of farm units I see their natural habitat being destroyed.

If anything I say today, Mr. Speaker, fastens the attention of fish and game associations or hunting groups in Canada on this problem I shall be very happy. I feel they should be as concerned as the farmers with protecting these resources. We want our children to be able to hunt and enjoy this wonderful outdoor sport.

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

### SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard):** It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis)—Canadian Pacific Railway—request by high school class for explanation of federal grant in light of net income; the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Skoberg)—Supply and Services—letting of contracts without competitive tendering.

[*Translation*]

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely notices of motions (papers).

## *Indian Land and Treaty Claims*

[*English*]

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

#### INDIAN AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR COPIES OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN  
DR. BARBER AND NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS REGARD-  
ING CLAIMS AND TREATIES

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena)** moved:

That an order of the House do issue for copies of all correspondence, telegrams and other documents exchanged between Dr. Lloyd Barber and the native Indian peoples organizations across Canada regarding the matter of Indian land and treaty claims and aboriginal rights.

**Mr. Gibson:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. This motion refers to Dr. Barber by name but there is no reference to any official capacity that he may have. I think it might be of benefit to the House if the motion could be amended so that we know what his position in the matter is. There is nothing to indicate that he is not acting as an ordinary citizen. What capacity does he have in relation to the House at this time? I say this in all sincerity.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard):** I am sure this is a matter for debate, and I am sure the information will be given to those who listen to the debate which is about to proceed. The hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard).

Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard):** The hon. member for High Park (Mr. Deakon).

● (5:00 p.m.)

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I was reluctant to rise to debate the question because of the lack of concern exhibited by the cabinet and the government about the proprieties of things involved here. The motion deals with correspondence relating to aboriginal treaty rights and claims of native Indian peoples. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien), within whose jurisdiction this matter falls, has not the courtesy even to attend the House. His parliamentary secretary is not here to deal with a matter of this fundamental importance. That ought to be noted in the record. This item ought not to be proceeded with until those hon. gentlemen who have the primary responsibility and governmental authority with respect to Indian affairs have the courtesy to come to this House and explain why, when this matter initially arose on October 4 of last year, the people responsible for Indian affairs refused to allow native Indian peoples to see the correspondence in question. Sir, we ought not to be asked to proceed in the light of this discourtesy on the part of the minister and the parliamentary secretary.

**Mr. Gibson:** Mr. Speaker, on that same point of order—