Inquiries of the Ministry

NATIONAL PARKS

LAKE LOUISE PROJECT—OPPOSITION OF ALBERTA—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the Alberta government's recently announced opposition to the proposed \$30 million Esso Village Lake Louise project in which five serious defects were listed, has the minister's department been officially informed by the Alberta government of its opposition to the plan and, if so, what is his reaction to it?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I did receive a letter from the Alberta Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs in which he informs me of the position of his government. It is both a refusal and an acceptance; it is difficult to interpret. I think they are at the same time for and against it and the government will have to make the decision and to take into account their pros and cons.

[English]

LAKE LOUISE PROJECT—REQUEST FOR DELAY TO PERMIT ECOLOGICAL STUDY

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Will the minister place a moratorium on the project until the issues raised by the Alberta government have been resolved and a thorough ecological impact study has been done by competent ecologists and evaluated at a future public hearing?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, this project is being considered. No works were undertaken in the area of Lake Louise. It is out of the question to impose a moratorium because there are in fact no works. It is only a project which is being examined by the government.

BILINGUALISM

ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN "CANADA TODAY"—ALLEGED FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

Would he indicate whether he intends to make a statement concerning the article published in "Canada Today" which deals with the failure of the government policy on bilingualism?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly not make a statement, but I can definitely say that the hon. member's information is inaccurate, or that his reading of the article is extremely prejudiced.

[Mr. Stanfield.]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

STATEMENT BY QUEBEC PREMIER ON FEDERAL POWERS—POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister.

Three days ago the Quebec premier, commenting on an interview report of a deputy minister of Governmental Affairs of that province, publicly acknowledged that it was imperative to attack the federal government's famous spending power. According to his statement—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the hon. member please ask his question? The oral question period will soon be over. The hon. member should ask a question, not make a speech.

Mr. La Salle: I was coming to my question, Mr. Speaker.

I should like to ask, in view of this statement, whether the Prime Minister is prepared to reconsider his position in relation to this very important problem, as far as the province of Quebec is concerned?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not usually make any comment on reports made by provincial public servants to their ministers, and moreover I have not heard about this report at all.

Mr. La Salle: I wish to ask a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

In view of the statement of the Quebec premier to the effect that at the last federal-provincial conference that matter had not been discussed in depth, would the right hon. Prime Minister be prepared to invite provincial authorities to have another discussion on this matter?

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT—SUGGESTED ENLARGEMENT OF COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT TO INCLUDE INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development pertains to Indian rights. Does the minister intend to expand the number of people on the recently formed three-man committee created to work out a framework for discussion of future development of the James Bay region in order that a member of the Indian community may take part in any and all discussions or decisions which will affect the native population of this area?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I should like to answer that there is confusion in the opposition ranks because this is exactly the same question as that put by the hon. member for Oxford a few minutes ago.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have reached the end of the question period. I believe the hon member for Koote-