

Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) and also of his Parliament Secretary (Mrs. Beauchamp-Niquet), I am pleased to answer the concerns of the Hon. Member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro) who is to be commended for raising this matter. Regarding that famous diplomatic note that should have been sent to the United States and that indeed has been, concerning the leases to be put out by the United States Government of the West Coast, I would like to point out that these leases do not involve the area inside Dixon Entrance. Rather, they lie West of the Entrance. No agreement was reached on the maritime boundary between our two countries. The Canadian Government considers unacceptable the action taken by the United States to put out leases in that area.

The diplomatic note does not cover the question of jurisdiction. Clearly, Canadian environment laws and regulations apply to areas under Canadian jurisdiction. In March 1979, Canada and the United States signed two treaties: a treaty concerning fishery resources on the East Coast, and a treaty under which the dispute concerning the maritime boundary in the Gulf of Maine area is subject to mandatory resolution. The United States have not ratified the fishery agreement, and it has never been implemented. On the other hand, in 1981 the United-States Senate ratified the boundary agreement, under which the dispute concerning the maritime boundary in the Gulf of Maine would be referred to a division of the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Canada and the United States have just concluded the presentation of their case, and a decision is expected next summer or early next fall at the latest.

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS—WEST REGION TRIBAL COUNCIL. (B) VALLEY RIVER INDIAN BAND—PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE BALLAST PIT

**Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River):** Mr. Speaker, my question pursues the one I raised on May 4, in respect to which I believe the Minister responding inadvertently misled me. He was referring to meetings other than the one I asked about. Perhaps it was the right answer for the wrong question.

However, on May 4 I asked why the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Munro) had not yet responded to the West Region Tribal Council and Chiefs of the Crane River, Ebb and Flow, Pine Creek Waterhen and Valley River budget submissions which were presented to the Minister directly, in person, on March 29, when he had promised a response within 15 days.

My office was in contact with the West Region Tribal Council this afternoon and they have not yet received a reply. When will that reply be forthcoming? I am sure the Minister understands that this budget request is a very serious matter. The amount proposed by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is not adequate to meet the combined funding needs of the bands.

*Adjournment Debate*

At the March 29 meeting, the Minister promised to respond to the Pine Creek's education budget proposal in ten days. There was no reply. When will there be a reply? I would like to quote from their letter to me. It reads:

We presented our budget to Mr. Munro on March 29, 1984. . . . Our of Meeting, the Chief and Representatives of the Education Authority were informed that the Minister's office would get back to them in ten days.

To date we received no response from his Department. . . . The Department agrees with Local Control of Education on reserves and have said so many times, both to this Band and nationally; but when it comes to funding this program, either there is no money or all programs are based on a formula.

In my supplementary question I asked about the Valley River ballast pit. When will this long-outstanding matter be settled? The Minister and the Department are aware of the details of this matter, and how the gravel over the past two years for the Band has actually cost more than the price the pit would cost to purchase.

Once again, and I will continue if need be, I call upon the Minister and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to act immediately to secure this piece of land for the Valley River Indian Band under the Department's native land claims program. I trust and hope that the response from the Parliamentary Secretary will be more complete, and will give some positive response to this issue.

● (1820)

[Translation]

**Mr. André Bachand (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for the Manitoba constituency of Dauphin-Swan River (Mr. Lewycky) said that he is concerned about the financing of the West Region Tribal Council and the purchase of a ballast pit for the Valley River Indian Band.

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is providing financial assistance to the West Region Tribal Council for the over-all management of its programs. I am happy to note that the Minister has approved in principle a new funding policy for the Tribal Council. Part of the additional funds which the Department needs to implement this policy have been allotted. The Minister has also announced that he plans to ask the Treasury Board for assistance to Tribal Councils throughout the country during the current fiscal year.

As for the purchase by the Valley River Band of a ballast pit located on their reservation, the Department is willing to provide assistance if the price corresponds to the market value. However, the owner is asking without any justification a price that is much higher than the estimated value.

Purchasing the pit is therefore not justified under these conditions. However, departmental officials in the Manitoba region are still willing to meet with the owner to negotiate any reasonable price. They will also encourage the Band Council to continue its own negotiations.