

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, in the press release that the minister issued yesterday he said that the commissioner must from now on follow the instructions and the advice of the Executive Council of the Yukon. At the same time, he said he would keep for himself the responsibilities that he has under the Indian Act for the administration of the Yukon.

How does he reconcile that? Does that mean that the commissioner no longer has the right of veto, but that he reserves that right to veto the decisions of the so-called elected representatives in the Yukon, and how does he reconcile this with the position of the Yukon Indians who are opposed to any movement to provincial status while their land claims are not even near to settlement?

**Mr. Epp:** I have to tell the hon. member that he is wrong in his allegation. First of all, I did not tell the former commissioner that she was bound by the decision of the executive committee. I said, as the Yukon Act determines, that she was bound by the decision of the legislative council: they are the elected people of the Yukon. What we have also said, and the hon. member should be aware of this, is that in terms of the land claims the commissioner was not involved in the ongoing negotiations on land claims.

This government has stated clearly its recognition of land claims and the desirability of the early settlement of the land claims. That will go forward as well.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### THE ADMINISTRATION

#### TABLING OF ORDERS IN COUNCIL LISTING ACTING PRIME MINISTERS, ACTING MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

**Hon. Walter Baker (President of the Privy Council and Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 41(2) I wish to table in both official languages copies of the order in council listing acting prime ministers, the acting ministers and the order in council listing parliamentary secretaries, Nos. PC 1979-1641 and PC 1979-2716.

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[Translation]

### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

#### CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed, from Tuesday, October 9, consideration of the motion of Mr. Fretz for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

### *The Address—Mr. Trudeau*

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I would like, at the outset, to offer my best wishes to His Excellency the Governor General, who presided for the first time over the official opening of Parliament.

Since Mr. and Mrs. Schreyer have moved into Rideau Hall with their children they have not ceased to impress Canadians of all ethnic origins by the enthusiasm they display in carrying out their noble duties. In the course of their travels to the various regions of our country, they have rejuvenated our national pride and have reminded us of the values which form the very basis of our strength and our greatness. On behalf of the official opposition, I wish them health and happiness in their service to Canada.

[English]

I wish to commend the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne for the impressive way in which they have launched their parliamentary careers. The hon. member for Erie (Mr. Fretz) spoke movingly of the multicultural richness of the Niagara peninsula, and the hon. member for Cardigan (Mr. MacDonald) spoke with the conviction of the farmer that he is when he stressed the importance of preserving the family farm. Both men demonstrated they have much to contribute to Parliament. I was moved when the hon. member for Cardigan said that as a member of a new generation of parliamentarians he intended to bring his best efforts to serve his country. I am reminded that on all sides of the House we have new members who have been elected to the various parties, who show that the parliamentary system and the federal form of government in Canada is very vigorous indeed and that it can grow men and women of such value, prepared to give their best in this place in the service of the country.

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** While I am in a kindly mood, Mr. Speaker, may I take this opportunity to welcome to the House in his new role the man who now bears the title of the Right Honourable the Prime Minister (Mr. Clark).

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** Although I am still able to restrain my enthusiasm over the electoral success he has had as the leader of his party, I have no hesitation in joining other Canadians in wishing him well as the new Prime Minister of our country. If in the future he should sometimes doubt the sincerity of my support, let him remember that even the friendliest surgeon must frequently use the knife.

● (1510)

As one who knows something about both the satisfactions and the frustrations of the office he now holds, I may be permitted a few words of advice. I would advise him that he will seldom be as powerful as people think he is to right what is wrong in Canada, nor seldom be as personally responsible as his admirers tell him he is for what is right about Canada. So