

*Supply*

five sectoral committees. I say a step because issues will evolve and be addressed over the course of negotiations.

Knowing the interests of third parties is a gradual approach but it has a clear objective. We want treaties that work and address the interests and needs of all participants in the economy.

• (1705)

In the year and a half I have been on TNAC I saw great improvement in communication and much better understanding of these complicated issues and better co-operation. In addition, the Government of British Columbia with which we are co-operating very well organizes province wide monthly advisory meetings which are reaching all British Columbians. It is a shame that such intolerance is being promoted by some people in B.C. who do not seem to want to solve the problems.

I will identify a few of the interests common to all parties in the process. Certainty and economic stability were essential. Effective local and regional advisory processes were essential. Access to land base for all economic and non-economic interests was essential. The continuation of government authority in areas of resource management was imperative to successfully concluding practical and affordable land claims settlements.

Both governments have taken these interest papers seriously. As we work through the development of specific negotiating mandates the advice TNAC has provided through these papers will be considered, assessed and integrated wherever possible. Through the consultation process and eventually through Parliament the government will be held accountable for how it has used the advice of third parties.

Now the Reform Party seems obsessed by secrecy even when it no longer exists. In September 1994 I presented to TNAC the minister's position on the openness of the consultation process. The minister accepted the concerns of TNAC members that a confidentiality restriction overly limited their ability to seek advice and direction from their colleagues and organizations. Now the media is invited to all our meetings. That restriction has ended. TNAC members can and do fully discuss information provided by governments to TNAC members.

The B.C. Treaty Commission in its annual reports has talked of the need to consult and for people to know what is going on in the treaty process. Perception can become reality. It only takes a willingness to request some written information because material is available.

The chief commissioner, Alec Robertson, came to the September 1995 TNAC meeting to report to members and hear their concerns about the treaty process. That is another important link in the treaty process. At this time 120 bands representing 79 per cent of First Nations are negotiating.

A couple of weeks ago in Sechelt I met the chief of the Sechelt Band who cheerfully told me how well his framework agree-

ment negotiations are going. He expects conclusion by next August. The Sechelt Band was the fourth to sign a framework agreement, the first step of the negotiating process. I was in Sechelt in August for the signing of the agreement and there was a real celebration.

At the centre is the need to negotiate workable, effective and affordable treaties. Unless those treaties are surrounded and supported by a strong consultation process which provides for a frank and open exchange of information, advice and interest, the objective of publicly supported treaties will be difficult to achieve.

Consultation is important. The government takes the views of Canadians seriously. We want to ensure our policies and their implementation are sensitive to the advice and interests of communities, people and interests which might be affected.

We have to work together, all of us, and through dialogue we can eventually give our aboriginal people the tools necessary to become self-sufficient. For too long they were deprived of their integrity and pride. Their children must be strengthened and the people of the new generation must be able to find a place in society that makes them proud of themselves.

I am pleased to have contributed factual information to the debate today. Consultations are essential to ensuring that negotiations can be successfully completed. I hope the opposition will soon join this consultation exercise. We could all come out as winners.

I conclude with a comment I made in the House on October 19:

This country can simply not afford to lose another generation of aboriginal people able and willing to make a contribution to this country. The young aboriginal people of today can be our professionals, our trades people, our inventors of tomorrow. They represent our past and our future. If we lose them it will be an incredible waste.

I ask hon. members to vote down this unfair motion brought forward by the third party.

**Mr. Ted White (North Vancouver, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to rise today to speak in favour of Reform's motion on the subject of B.C. land claims.

• (1710)

I have been listening to the preprinted, standard run of the mill, say the right thing style of speeches emanating from members opposite. Frankly, anyone in touch with the feelings of B.C. can see straight through the facade of the Liberal political correctness going on.

The hon. members for Vancouver Centre and Vancouver East spouted exactly the line we would expect from old line politicians completely out of touch with reality. I have no doubt whatsoever that the speeches of any other Liberal B.C. members are equally as irrelevant. They must have some sort of big sausage machine upstairs. They turn the handle and crank out all this meaningless stuff.