

the producers to market their apples in CA or controlled-air storage?

Mr. Marcel Ostiguy (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, since the department has received several briefs on this matter, as the hon. member has just said, it is therefore well aware of the inventory surpluses of apples in cold storage following a bumper crop in 1980, showing an increase of about 20 per cent. The policy that we are trying to implement is in three parts. First, there will be an advertising campaign to urge Canadians to eat more apples. We would like to reach the figure of six pounds per capita. This publicity campaign should be launched within a few weeks. Second, a purchasing program by the Farm Products Agency will aim at disposing of the stock of refrigerated apples. Third, the Agricultural Stabilization Board will provide additional assistance to Canadian apple growers.

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[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

DENE THA' BAND—STATUS OF FINANCING AGREEMENT

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The minister is well aware that last October he had signed a \$5 million agreement with the Dene Tha' band of northern Alberta which was then cancelled by his department because it had no funds available to fulfil his promise. Is it the policy of this government to make spontaneous promises while in the presence of Indian band leaders, only to cancel such agreements once the minister is safely tucked away in his Ottawa office?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, I think the hon. member should check his facts. There were problems with finding moneys, there is no question about that, but there was an agreement which was nullified both by the band in question and myself on behalf of the government. It was a mutual agreement—and they had independent legal advice before they agreed—based on the fact that they felt if they had legal recourse they would do better with previous agreements signed at the regional level under my predecessor.

● (1130)

Mr. Cooper: Madam Speaker, as a result of the difficulties between the department and the minister, the Dene Tha' band has now reacted by closing off all rights-of-way through their reserve. As a result the Mackenzie highway may well be shut down, which will limit and isolate the city of Yellowknife and other northern communities. What action is the minister planning to rectify this situation and to try to bring it under control before we have a very volatile situation on our hands?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Madam Speaker, we are obtaining a legal opinion as to whether the band has that

authority at the present time. When I have that legal opinion, naturally I will be in a better position to respond to the hon. member. I hope, through discussions and so on, that this type of confrontation can be avoided.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO JAMES BAY CREE

Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo-Chilcotin): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It concerns the lack of health care available to the James Bay Cree. I am sure the minister is aware that since last October 7,000 Cree in the James Bay territory have been virtually without health care and that clinics and hospitals are closed down because medical staffs have been laid off. The minister will remember that last summer at least ten children under the age of two years died of a disease which was probably gastroenteritis. A task force recommended that immediate action be taken. Would the minister tell us what action has been taken by the government to ensure that there will not be a repeat of this situation next summer?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, I should like to check on the progress of that matter and get back to the hon. member in the early part of next week.

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THE CONSTITUTION

INQUIRY WHEN BRITISH PRIME MINISTER INFORMED OF INCLUSION OF CHARTER OF RIGHTS

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Madam Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. On what date was the Prime Minister of Great Britain informed by the Government of Canada that it was its intention to include a charter of rights binding on the provinces in its patriation proposals?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, it was toward the end of June when I was returning from the Summit in Venice that I met with the British Prime Minister and members of her cabinet. I explained to them what was in the package we had put to the premiers at the beginning of June—the people's package, patriation, the amending formula and the charter; that there were many other things we were discussing as well; that the June meeting with the premiers had not been conclusive, except to the point where we had all agreed—

Mr. Clark: The September meeting.

Mr. Trudeau: No, the June meeting with the premiers was not conclusive except to say that we had, among the premiers and myself, agreed to have many meetings over the summer in order to achieve results by September. The hon. member will