

*Oral Questions***INDIAN AFFAIRS**

SETTLEMENT OF NATIVE LAND CLAIMS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—RESPONSIBILITY OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT—SUGGESTED MEETING OF NATIVES AND PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES WITH MINISTER

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs. In reply to an earlier question the minister informed the House that he is waiting for the Province of British Columbia to settle certain land claims in that province as a means of overcoming native unrest which has been apparent there. Is the minister able to inform the House by what authority it has been possible for him to pass responsibility for land claim settlements on to the provinces, and, if so, what is his department doing to assist the natives of British Columbia to fight their case with the province?

An hon. Member: You know that already.

Mr. Oberle: I know nothing!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): On the question of the land claims, the federal government has not denied that it has the responsibility to extinguish the claim. On the other hand, we have made it clear that the land which is involved in the settlement of any claim is now provincial Crown land and it is essential that the provincial government should have a role and accept that role in extinguishing this land claim.

Mr. Oberle: I was hoping that the minister would be as frank in response to my question as I was in asking it. The situation in British Columbia is a difficult one and is causing considerable hardship to those concerned. Is the minister prepared to meet with the Province of British Columbia and with the native people to find an interim solution to this serious problem?

Mr. Buchanan: As the hon. member knows, I have had several meetings with provincial officials and I shall be delighted to meet them at any time if they wish to sit down and discuss the question of land claims.

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[Translation]

PENITENTIARIES

SUBSIDIZATION OF GROUPS INVOLVED IN REHABILITATION—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Solicitor General.

This morning, a Montreal daily announced that for the first time the government was going to subsidize recreation programs organized by a group of Montreal artists under the direction of Germaine Dugas. Considering that other artistic groups are also working benevolently in various penal institutions, could the minister tell us

[Mr. Danson.]

whether his department will be subsidizing such groups, and if so, what will be their amount? Or whether another government department will be distributing these allowances, and why a group of artists are being asked to work benevolently, whereas it seems that the same government will be subsidizing another group?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Dugas' group and her organization are not being paid by my department for giving performances in federal penitentiaries, and I have no information to the effect that she is being paid by another department.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary.

To clear up the matter, Mr. Speaker, may I request from the minister that he make proper inquiries to find out what department is subsidizing this group? And if the group is not being subsidized, I simply want the population to know that the newspaper made an error.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, in most cases these groups are asked to give their shows free of charge. From the information at my disposal, there is no grant for this group, but if the hon. member so wishes, I can obtain more specific information.

● (1500)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, now that the House has been making such tremendous strides in disposing of the government's legislative proposals, may I ask the government House leader whether he could indicate what else he has to deal with in the House and whether we will be here long enough to permit that pillar of parliamentary propriety, the Prime Minister, to make the announcement about the PLO inside the House rather than outside?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, as the House knows, we will be completing consideration of Bill C-8. Tomorrow we will continue with the discussion of the Excise Tax Act. We are making some progress and I would welcome any approaches from the House leader to extend the co-operation that we have been receiving, because I am quite satisfied that we can reach decisions after adequate debate and be out of here within a relatively few days.

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the President of the Privy Council would take the suggestion that he introduce the legislation arising out of the recommendations in the Hermann report. Within about 60 minutes we could move first, second and third reading and do something for half a million citizens of Canada.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I am willing to take that under consideration. I think there are some other bills that could equally be expeditiously handled if they were not made the subject of political wrangling.