

Inquiries of the Ministry

of their bands. The same policy applies to any Indian association which exists or which might be created in Canada.

[English]

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the minister. Can he say whether it is correct that M. Wuttunee was hired to advise the government on means of having the Indian people accept the government's policy?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, according to my information, Mr. Wuttunee has been hired by my department in order to give legal advice on the new legislation which we would like to introduce and which will be entitled "Indian Lands Act" since he may be one of the best qualified persons to advise the department, in view of the fact that he is an Indian himself and a very good lawyer.

[English]

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister care to report on what sort of legal advice he was seeking from Mr. Wuttunee pertaining to this white paper?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is asking for rather detailed information. I would not think the question is in order.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE TO MEET HIGHER COST OF LIVING**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. As the Prime Minister stated in an interview on the French network over the weekend—and I quote his words from the transcript: "the government has rejected wage and price controls because such a policy would be unfair to workers who have been waiting five years for a raise" applying that specifically to those who work for minimum wages in industries which come under federal jurisdiction, has the government now decided to raise the wages of these workers in the very near future inasmuch as the cost of living has risen by 20 per cent since the last raise five years ago and they have been living 20 per cent below the poverty level—

[Mr. Chrétien.]

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is now making a speech. Is he coming to the question?

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I fooled you that time because I have already asked my question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The hon. member fooled me, too, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, may I put the question a little more plainly to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that he said it is unfair to workers who have been waiting five years for a raise, and as those who work for minimum wages in industries that come under federal jurisdiction—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have not yet recognized the question. Perhaps I am again in error.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I will try again. Is the government planning in the immediate future to increase the wages of those who work for minimum wages in industries under federal jurisdiction, as it is five years since they have had a raise and the cost of living has gone up 20 per cent in the meantime?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has asked a question now. I did recognize it this time.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, we want the answer.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the government's policy in this respect will be announced in due course.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As that is the sort of answer I have been getting every time I have asked this question during the past two years, does the Prime Minister not realize how completely phony his answer makes his so-called just society? When is he going to stop being the joker of the just society and do something honest for the people of this country?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.