

So, there you have it. A minister and a department charged with the task of dealing with native people and with settling land claims would seem to be too busy helping southern companies grab resources while the grabbing is good. The minister does not even take the time to keep himself informed about a matter that could ruin the negotiations. Perhaps the minister does not have control of his department; perhaps he is a minister who just does not care. I do not know for sure, but that is my opinion at this time. When will the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Buchanan) realize he has responsibilities in the field of Indian affairs and northern development, and act more responsibly in respect of the native people of this country?

**Mrs. Iona Campagnolo (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, the 68 prospecting permits questioned by the member were issued as such permits are issued every year on April 1. These prospecting permits are issued consistent with the general administration of lands in the north, and grant to the holder the right to explore for minerals within an area designated by the permit. This is done by officials of the department and is not a matter ever referred to the minister.

It is true that there was no consultation with the public prior to the issuance of the permits in the tradition of strict confidence of the prospector. However, if these prospectors wish to start exploration programs, they, the permittees, must apply for a land-use permit. These applications are forwarded to any and all affected communities; in addition there is a 42-day period required for consultation before any decision is made.

A few short weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, I was much impressed with the honour and integrity displayed by the Inuit-Tapirisat on February 27 as they presented their proposal for sharing Nunavut. I find it surprising, therefore, that on the Tuesday of the very week in which the hon. member for the Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth) raised this question, some two days later James Arvaluk and executive members of the Inuit-Tapirisat met with the minister for one and one half hours and discussed a wide range of concerns, followed by an additional hour and a half meeting between the Inuit-Tapirisat representatives and departmental officials, and never once in those three hours was the matter of prospecting permits even mentioned. Yet on that same date these same representatives wrote a letter to the minister of such seriousness and deep concern that his resignation was sought by them on this issue. Discourtesy, Mr. Speaker, like courtesy is a two-way street.

● (2200)

I can only say that knowing as they do that consultation must take place before a land-use permit may be issued, and having spent a full three hours in discussion and consultation on the very day of their written complaint, the Inuit-Tapirisat have shown a rather surprising course of action, and I am afraid that unfortunately it calls into question the heretofore automatically accepted good faith of the Inuit-Tapirisat.

### *Adjournment Debate*

#### PENITENTIARIES—BRITISH COLUMBIA—SUGGESTED NEED FOR REORGANIZATION OF STAFF—CONFIDENCE OF MINISTER IN ADMINISTRATOR

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock):** Mr. Speaker, on March 29 I raised a question in the House with the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand) regarding the problems facing the administration within the B.C. Penitentiary, and I asked the minister whether he did not agree that the administration of the B.C. Penitentiary requires immediate and undivided attention to bring about a radical reorganization of the staff structure as well as of its philosophy. My concern has been the fact that there has been a very high turnover in the staff at the penitentiary.

I visited that institution soon after I was elected, and then again not long after that. The one thing that impressed me was the fact that among the guards there is a very high turnover. I cannot really blame the administration entirely, especially when I learned some of the facts that faced them. They have to hire people off the street for about \$3.60 or \$3.80 an hour. They have to give the guards on-the-job training, and by the time these men are trained for very sensitive positions they find a better paying job.

If you find someone for \$3.60 or \$3.80 with good qualifications, how do you keep him when there are other job opportunities all over the country paying much better than that? As a matter of fact the guard who showed me around the penitentiary had been there about 19 years and he was making less than \$6 an hour, yet we expect him to be a specialist.

Soon after I got back to Ottawa I spoke to the Solicitor General about this, and his immediate retort was that it was the job of the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chétien). That is entirely true, but it is the Solicitor General's job to fight in cabinet to provide the kind of funding that will make the penitentiary service operate the way it should. He is responsible for that chain of command.

I am not really speaking of more spending or of adding to the total budget of the government, especially when it is talking about austerity. I am speaking of the rearrangement of priorities within the government. The Solicitor General speaks continually about rehabilitation in prisons, he speaks of this in grandiose terms. At the same time he does not provide the kind of personnel that can initiate a program of rehabilitation within that service. The reason he does not do that is that the kind of personnel that would be qualified can find plenty of other opportunities to do the same kind of work for better pay.

There is one other point that I would like to bring to the attention of the House, and again it is a matter of a rearrangement of priorities. The administration of the Pacific region has a staff of approximately 80 in its Vancouver office. I hasten to add it is in the Vancouver office, not in the penitentiary at New Westminster or at Matsqui. But is it in a hostel, a cluster of mobile homes, or even in a renovated warehouse? No, Mr. Speaker, the Pacific region office is in the Pacific Centre, which is probably the most expensive office space not only in Vancouver but in all western Canada.

What does the Solicitor General mean when he says this is the job of the President of the Treasury Board? Such a