

INDIAN AFFAIRS

REQUEST THAT ACCESS OF INDIANS TO DISTRICT OFFICES NOT BE INHIBITED

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Since the recent situation at Kenora indicates that native people are having to resort to sit-ins to get attention given to their problems, will the minister assure the House that he will not extend to his district offices the practice of putting up steel walls to keep the Indians out, and will he accede to the request by petition of his departmental employees to remove the steel obstacles to Indians entering the department's head office in Ottawa?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to reply to the hon. member who once more is late with his news. If he goes to the building he will see there is no more steel wall since last week, when I gave orders to take it away.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): May I have the assurance that the practice of putting up obstacles to keep out native people will not be extended to district offices, as I asked in my original question?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I will take all the necessary steps to make sure these people have access to my officials and my department, but I will never put up with people who want to use violence in order to make their point.

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Would the minister assure the House that in the meantime he has not taken official action to rename the headquarters building of his department "Fort Chrétien"?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

* * *

INDUSTRY

CAPITAL INVESTMENT FORECAST FOR 1974—EFFECT OF ENERGY CRISIS

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Does the crash survey now being taken by his department indicate that the minister has changed his mind about the prediction he made on November 26 that next year will be a very good year?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): No, Mr. Speaker. I think next year will be a very good year.

Mr. Hellyer: Can the minister give the House an estimate of the effect on capital expenditure in 1974 resulting from the energy crisis?

Mr. Gillespie: The last analysis we did on this clearly indicated that the business community expects to increase

Oral Questions

its capital investment very substantially, by over 20 per cent. I have had no reason yet to modify those figures.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, the minister is still giving information based on the pre-energy crisis situation. Can he give us more up to date information? In particular, can he give us an estimate of the effects on Canadian industry of the energy induced slowdown in the United States economy, especially in so far as it affects dollar volume and the number of jobs?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I think the current situation is too indefinite at the moment to make any forecast.

* * *

● (1440)

NATIONAL DEFENCE

UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE WITH CIVILIANS BY MILITIA UNIT AT TOLSTOI, MANITOBA

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence but in his absence perhaps his parliamentary secretary could answer it. The question relates to an incident at Tolstoi, Manitoba, this past week in which a number of civilians were terrorized by a militia unit on exercise. Does the parliamentary secretary have some explanation for the incident, and would he indicate to the House whether any disciplinary action is being taken against those who perpetrated the incident?

Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, this was an unfortunate incident that should never have occurred and steps are being taken to see that it does not occur again.

* * *

TRANSPORT

PROPOSED BARRIE-TORONTO RAILWAY PASSENGER SERVICE—REQUEST THAT MINISTER EXPEDITE DECISION

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact the Canadian Transport Commission held lengthy hearings at Barrie last July 10 to 13, when over 40 briefs were presented in favour of the establishment of a rail passenger service between Barrie and Toronto, with week-end extensions to Collingwood and Meaford, and taking into consideration the ever-increasing highway congestion and the energy shortage, will the minister take the necessary steps to expedite a favourable decision in this matter as soon as possible?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I received this report this morning and I will be happy to look into the matter and make a decision.