

*Oral Questions*

circular itself it says that cheques shall not be forwarded to Members of Parliament for presentation without the prior approval of the Minister responsible for the program but that the approval may be given on an individual payment for each presentation, the cheques going to the Member of Parliament. May I ask the Minister if he will pay particular attention to a question that I supplied the Table with today, for printing on tomorrow's Notice Paper, indicating a list of some 100 projects, some 60 per cent of which are in the Province of Quebec, and tell me whether this policy in the Treasury Board circular is applicable to each of those projects and, if so, will that policy be applied to all Members of Parliament, or will it only be applied for the convenience of Liberal Members of Parliament?

**Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board):** Madam Speaker, in addition to the portion of the circular referred to by my hon. friend, I should point out that it covers classes of payments as well as individual presentations. The circular makes it clear that whether this provision is to be used is a matter for decision by the individual Ministers, so I am afraid that my hon. friend will have to address his questions with respect to any particular project to the Minister responsible.

QUESTION PLACED ON ORDER PAPER—ASSURANCE OF  
RESPONSE REQUESTED

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, the Minister has not answered my question. My question is essentially this. Will the policy be applicable to all Members of Parliament or is it confined to the presentation of such cheques by Liberal Members of Parliament only? Again I draw the Minister's attention to the question that I placed on today's Order Paper indicating almost 200 projects, and I would ask him now, since each of them is listed specifically, both by name and by amount, whether he will answer that question that I put on the Order Paper with respect to the cheques being allotted to Members of Parliament for the ridings in which those projects are located.

**Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board):** Madam Speaker, if my hon. friend has put a question on the Order Paper, then obviously the rules with regard to response will be respected. But to return to his specific question, I repeat that the matter of whether a cheque is to be formally presented on behalf of the Government by a Member, and if so, which one, is a matter for discretionary decision by the responsible Minister.

• (1450)

**FEDERAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK**  
POLICY GOVERNING FUNDING OF PROJECTS ON INDIAN  
RESERVES

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Federal Business Development Bank, but in his absence I will address it to the Parliamentary Secretary.

After raising this issue last Friday I have had the opportunity to confirm once again that the Federal Business Development Bank in British Columbia discriminates against certain businesses wishing to locate in industrial parks on Indian reserves. For a non-Indian business person wishing to obtain a loan from the Federal Business Development Bank for a business in an industrial park on an Indian reservation, the policy of the bank is not to fund such a business. That policy does not exist in any other Province of Canada. Can the Parliamentary Secretary explain why there is this discrimination?

[Translation]

**Mr. René Cousineau (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Madam Speaker, I must repeat what I said before, since the Government has certainly not adopted a special policy where Indians are concerned, whether or not they live on the reserve. I pointed out to the Hon. Member last week that the problem concerns collateral guarantees.

[English]

It was a matter of collateral, of a guarantee. At that time the unfortunate part was that the Indian was not the owner of the land.

Second, the decision of the band council did not oblige successive band councils. That is the reason why the loans were sometimes refused.

If the Hon. Member has a specific case I would gladly pass it on to the Minister.

REQUEST THAT INSTRUCTIONS BE ISSUED TO BANK

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, I want to confirm to the Parliamentary Secretary that I am referring specifically to non-Indian businesses located on Indian reservations. I would remind him that the Royal Bank of Canada, the Commerce, the TD, the Nova Scotia, and the Bank of British Columbia, as well as other financial institutions, are all prepared to lend money to enterprises locating on Indian reservations.

Would the Parliamentary Secretary confirm today that he is prepared to go to the officials of the Federal Business Development Bank and ask them to stop this discriminatory practice? Applying this strictly to one Province of Canada and one kind of business opportunity is something that we, as parliamentarians, should not condone. I am sure the Government would not