

Oral Questions

Mr. Faulkner: Mr. Speaker, I am surprised by the alleged comments of the president of the Indian Brotherhood. He and I have met on several occasions regarding the work of the NIB-cabinet committee. I indicated to him that I want some results from that process by the next full meetings in June. He indicated to me that was his intention as well. We both agreed that progress to date had not been substantial. My intention is to work with him and he, in turn, with the executive council, in an attempt to establish reasonable targets that might emerge at the meetings in June. That is my intention now.

We also indicated to the NIB and members of the executive committee—I say “we” because members of the cabinet participated in that meeting—that we thought, whatever we addressed in respect of amending the Indian Act, the one item that certainly would be part of it even if we did not want it to be part—and we do—is the question affecting the rights of Indian women. They know that. It is on the agenda of the NIB-cabinet committee and I hope to be able to deal with it in June.

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CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF GUIDELINES UNDER LEGISLATION

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. In view of the fact that even though part I of the Canadian Human Rights Act was proclaimed as at March 1, the provisions of section 11, having to do with equal pay for work of equal value, will not come into effect until the guidelines have been established, can the Minister of Justice undertake that those guidelines will be established not later than June 1?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, section 11 is in effect. That is to say, there is no further action required by the government to proclaim section 11; it has been proclaimed. The Human Rights commission has informed me that it is working on the preparation of guidelines and has a number of committees which have been meeting for some months, as a matter of fact, on the development of guidelines, so that on June 1 it will be able, as a Human Rights commission, to deal with complaints made to it about equal pay for work of equal value.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Justice, although this one may involve the President of the Treasury Board as well? In view of the fact that there seems to be some conflict between clause 6 of Bill C-28, the amendments to the Public Service Staff Relations Act, and the Canadian Human Rights Act, in that the latter act lays down provisions for equal pay for women, will the two ministers look at clause 6 of Bill C-28 to see whether it qualifies under the provisions of the Canadian Human Rights Act and, in fact, whether it qualifies under the Canadian Bill of Rights?

[Miss MacDonald.]

Mr. Basford: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and I suspect we will not have any difficulty in being able to arrange to talk about it.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL DISCUSSIONS ON EQUITY OF MINING TAX

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Following the Mining Association's suggestion last week that it would like to see a level of taxation for the industry in Canada that is lowered perhaps to 50 per cent initially and, hopefully, to 45 per cent eventually, will the government take the lead in following the suggestion of the association to hold joint meetings among the provincial and federal governments with a view to seeing if there could not be a more equitable tax treatment of our mining companies?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I was not at that particular brief presentation, although afterwards I did meet some of the members of the Mining Association. I reminded them, as I believe the ministers did, that in fact when the first ministers and myself met in the middle of February we agreed that further meetings and work should be done on the tax question regarding the mining industry.

Our point of view—and the House knows it—is that the federal government has not substantially increased its participation in the tax returns, but the provinces have considerably. However, we are prepared to seek some form of accommodation. I assured representatives of the mining industry that we would be following up on decisions taken in February to have further meetings with the provinces. They may have begun, but I would have to have a report from the Minister of Finance.

● (1452)

Mr. Stevens: A supplementary question, again to the Prime Minister. As the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, following the suggestion made by the Mining Association, commented that there may be room for the establishment of still further international mineral cartels, would the Prime Minister indicate if it is government policy to have more international mineral cartels and, if so, have any meetings been held in secret with industry or with other countries with a view to establishing this type of cartel arrangement?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, on the part of the government a position has been taken in the case of the uranium cartel. The hon. member knows something about that. It was that, when we are faced with restrictive competitive positions on the part of other countries, and when these positions of other countries of a cartel-like nature endanger Canadian jobs, we will not, as a matter of principle, hesitate to use our own cartel arrangement. That is the principle of it.