

Oral Questions

whether he intends to keep his word, or is that another promise to be added to the already long list of broken promises?

● (1140)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, in this particular case the fact that I have not met with native leaders yet is due to causes which the hon. member knows well, such as the fact that we have suffered several weeks of delay in getting on with the final stage of the constitutional debate. I always indicated to them that I intended meeting with them this fall. That will still be the case, but I find it more useful to meet with them after we have settled this constitutional matter in a way that they will know what role they will be able to play in the next stages. The hon. member will recall that in the resolution before the House provision is made for meetings over a period of two years with the native leaders. I am waiting for that resolution to be accepted to give effect to that undertaking.

TIMING OF MEETING

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Madam Speaker, the Native Council of Canada clearly understood that the Prime Minister's word related to a meeting with the Native Council prior to his meeting with the premiers next week. They will now know that his word is like the snow—it goes away in the spring.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, that is hardly a question. That is a comment which is very far from the truth.

Mr. Paproski: Then why are you answering it?

Mr. Trudeau: How can the hon. member say that the native people know that? They did not know when I would be meeting with the premiers any more than the hon. member. The agreement was that we would meet sometime this fall, and I say that I will keep that agreement. Whether it was to be before or after the premiers' meeting was never discussed with the native leaders. The hon. member knows that. He is just making up things, as he often does.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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POST OFFICE

MONARCH'S PORTRAIT ON POSTAGE STAMPS

Mr. D. M. Collette (York East): Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister tell the House whether press reports are true that Her Majesty's portrait will not be included in a new series of postage stamps to be issued next year?

Some hon. Members: Sit down!

Mr. Collette: If this is true, can the Prime Minister assure the House that such a change does not reflect government policy heralding the diminution of the role of the monarchy in Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I realize the monarchy is not a subject which interests hon. members opposite, but I know that on this side—

Mr. Andre: At least blush!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: You hear the groaning, Madam Speaker. We are not groaning on this side. They are groaning over there.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): You are whining.

Mr. Trudeau: People on this side were concerned by an article which was shown to me, appearing in this morning's papers, that indicated the 1982 stamp program has not been given final approval. That is true, and that is why the Post Office will have to publish its first stamp in January without an absolute figure on that stamp as to the amount of cents that the stamp composes. But as to the final decision on whether the Queen will appear on any stamp in 1982—

Mr. Stevens: A fill-in stamp.

Mr. Trudeau: —the article says that this decision will be made later this year. I can tell the House that that decision has been made, that there will be a Queen on the stamp in 1982.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Mitchell: Now, how about the economy?

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HOUSING

EFFECT OF STRIKE ON PEOPLE RENTING ACCOMMODATION IN THOMPSON, MANITOBA

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, I have a question which is more important to some people in Thompson. My question is directed to the minister responsible for CMHC. It may not be important to Liberal backbenchers, but it is important to the people of my riding. Last week CMHC sent out eviction notices to a number of people who are on strike against INCO Metals. These people are willing to pay partial payments of their rents. This practice is acceptable to private landlords in Thompson. I hope it is acceptable to the minister responsible for CMHC.

In light of the fact that CMHC has over 50 per cent of the rental accommodations in the city of Thompson, will the minister assure the people of Thompson that there will be no evictions as long as there are reasonable partial payments of rents? Will he assure us that in Future CMHC will not send out eviction notices only five days before eviction takes place, in the winter climate?