

Inquiries of the Ministry

lar situation relating to the education of Indian children in Alberta but elsewhere as well, would the Prime Minister and the government be prepared to put a motion on the order paper to have this subject matter examined in public by the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is referring to a motion in this session he probably knows that the session is well advanced. The House is very busy meeting in committee of the whole, and it has been the policy of the government to avoid parliamentary committee meetings as much as possible when the House is in committee of the whole so that we may be able to make progress with the business before the House. However, this does not mean that the minister is not prepared to discuss his policies when they come before the House, or to answer questions. The minister will be in the House tomorrow, and I believe the next day also, and will be willing to answer any questions on this subject.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as there has been almost a complete breakdown in communication between the minister and the Indian people, in view of their reluctance to proceed any further in their dealings with him, and in view of the fact that there was a well established and fine relationship existing when the minister presently in charge of housing was responsible for Indian affairs, would the Prime Minister consider making some switches in portfolios to get things back on the track?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

ALBERTA—PROPOSED CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL
CENTRE—EFFECT OF STUDENTS' STRIKE ON PROVISION
OF FUNDS

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister assure the House that action on the decision arrived at on July 29 will in no way be affected by the dispute over educational facilities in Alberta at this time?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): What decision is the hon. member referring to, Mr. Speaker? I did not understand his question.

Mr. Yewchuk: I will rephrase the question. Can the Prime minister assure the House that the decision by the government to grant funds for the purpose of establishing an Indian educational and cultural centre in Alberta will not be affected by the fact that there is a strike being staged by Indian students in northeastern Alberta?

Mr. Trudeau: There was no decision to hold a conference. I do not know what the hon. member is referring to.

Mr. Yewchuk: My reference was to the fact that the Indian Association has not received funds which were supposed to be forthcoming for this centre. As a supplementary question, have the RCMP been called in to investigate this new leak of July 29, and not last week's leak about a cabinet decision on foreign investment?

[Mr. Howard (Skeena).]

Mr. Trudeau: Now that I understand the previous question, Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that obviously the government cannot give funds to everyone in Canada who requests funds, but the record of the present government and of the minister in this regard is pretty good. I believe he doubled, during his mandate of three years, the amount of funds available to Indians over amounts that had been available to them before. So there is no lack of funds; there is a great deal of funds—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps we might return to this question in a moment. We will be running short of time. I see that the Leader of the Opposition wants to pursue the matter. He will be recognized after we have finished the first round of questions. The hon. member for Brant.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

CORNWALL—LAY-OFF OF EMPLOYEES AT COURTAULD
PLANT—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the hon. member for Stormont-Dundas is unable to ask a question in his capacity as Speaker during the question period—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member kindly resume his seat. If the hon. member has a question to ask he should ask it directly. As Speaker I take exception to the preamble to the hon. member's question. He should ask the question directly.

Mr. Blackburn: My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Would the Minister of Finance inform the House whether the government has any plans for the 225 men to be laid off at the Courtauld plant in Cornwall on December 3?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think this question should be addressed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

An hon. Member: What good would that do?

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

GRANTS TO GOLDEN EAGLE—ALLEGED PURCHASE OF
MATERIALS IN ENGLAND

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

In view of the substantial federal grants the Golden Eagle Oil Company has received from the federal government for its Saint-Romuald plant, can the minister tell us whether he knows that no Canadian company or firm has been able to sell steel or paint to this company because it uses government grants to make all its purchases in England?