

TRANSPORT

CONSULTATIONS WITH PROVINCES ON DRAFTING OF MARITIME CODE AND REGULATIONS

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Transport. During preliminary discussions in respect of the Maritime Code a commitment was given by the former minister of transport to consult with the Maritime premiers in this regard. Has the minister consulted with the Maritime Council of Premiers in respect of the act itself and the regulations associated with it?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Since the draft act almost exactly in its present form was on the order paper for a long time, I presume this was indeed done at meetings between the Minister of Transport and the Maritime ministers of transport, but I will check into it. Certainly, there has been ample opportunity for them to comment and I know of no specific objections on their part.

Mr. McCain: There was a commitment to agree to the regulations in advance of the act, as I understood the news report of which, I am sure, the minister has a copy. Have consultations taken place between the minister himself and the provincial premiers to determine whether or not they are in fact satisfactory as the act exists today?

Mr. Lang: There have been no such discussions with me. Perhaps there were some earlier. In addition, I would like to check whatever promises might have been made.

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● (1450)

INDIAN AFFAIRS

SUGGESTION GUIDELINES BE SUSPENDED UNTIL LAND CLAIMS OF NOVA SCOTIA MICMACS NEGOTIATED— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Has the minister received a copy of the letter that went to the Prime Minister from the president of the Union of Nova Scotia Indians? If so, is he willing to accede to the request of Mr. Denny that the government cease implementation of any new policy guidelines until such time as the aboriginal rights claims of the Nova Scotia Micmacs have been negotiated?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the copy of the letter to which the hon. member makes reference. Basically, our stance on the guidelines is that they were accepted and have been implemented over the past year. We are prepared to change or modify that stance as required but there is no relationship to any aboriginal claim.

Mr. Muir: A supplementary question; in view of the Micmac position is it the intention of the minister and the government to continue to implement the 1969 white paper

Oral Questions

on Indians without full consultation and acceptance by the people it affects?

Mr. Buchanan: Mr. Speaker, indication has been given on several occasions to the Indian people that we will not be implementing the 1969 policy statement.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

THE DIVERSITY OF SOURCES OF GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Considering that newsletters from his department and other departments of the federal government announcing that some departmental decisions would be the responsibility of another minister have reached us, can the minister tell the House why the newsletters from his ministry concerning the allotment of certain subsidies are initiated now by the Minister of Environment, now by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and now by his own authority? Is it a matter of administrative process or an advertising policy aimed at reaching a larger audience?

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the hon. member that this is a long established policy according to which members of the Cabinet participate in the decisions being made which, in many instances, affect several provinces in the country. That is why this policy has been established for many years and I do not see any reason why it should be changed.

POSSIBILITY OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBVENTIONS TO QUEBEC AND INCOME TAX COLLECTED FROM THAT PROVINCE

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question. Quite objectively, I would like the minister to understand the appropriateness of my question, because Canadian taxpayers sometimes ask us—

An hon. Member: Question!

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Who is the Speaker? You or them?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Sometimes people get all mixed up and we try to help them out. Mr. Speaker, I seriously wish to ask my question to the minister, for whom I have much respect, incidentally. When a minister announces a decision made by another department, I would like to know if this is really good and effective administration by which Canadians from the province of Quebec know that those subventions are given back to Quebec for the taxes paid by the people from Quebec to the federal government.