

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

AKAITCHO HALL—REQUEST FOR REPORT OF COMMISSIONER

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. You will recall that many weeks ago I raised a question about the regulations then in force in respect of Akaitcho Hall at Yellowknife. The minister said he was asking the commissioner to make an inquiry. I should like to ask when the minister will be able to give this chamber the details of the report which he has received as a result of the commissioner's inquiry, and would he also be good enough to table a copy of the new regulations which have recently been adopted in place of the outdated and severe ones which were objected to earlier.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, at my request, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories personally conducted an investigation following which students were invited to elect a new council and to draft, in co-operation with the institution, new regulations which were unanimously approved.

I have not yet received a copy of the regulations but when I do I shall be pleased to advise the house accordingly.

[English]

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. With regional disparity and a just society in mind will the Prime Minister consider a low income housing experiment in an area where annual incomes of \$4,900 and \$5,600 are higher than the average?

Surely the gesture the Prime Minister just made is the type of gesture which Ted Williams was expelled from baseball for.

An hon. Member: You got struck out.

Inquiries of the Ministry

IMMIGRATION

EUROPEAN FARM WORKERS—EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENTS

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Will the minister reverse the decision of his department which had the effect of cutting in half the number of European farm workers available to work in Canada under the International Agricultural Exchange Association and which thereby would have the effect of depriving more than 100 western farmers of experienced and capable help during the busy spring and summer season?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I did not hear the first part of my hon. friend's question. If he is referring to the exchange of students for farm work in Canada, I should like to tell him we have reduced to some extent the number of students from other countries that would be coming to Canada this year, because of our desire to employ as many Canadian students as possible. There is still a rough balance between the number of students we take and the number of Canadian students who find employment abroad.

Mr. Mazankowski: Would the minister review the decision in light of the fact that students, particularly high school students, in our own country are at school during the seeding and harvesting seasons and therefore are not available.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has made a representation to the minister.

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, is the Department of Manpower and Immigration ready and able to provide the same service to farmers, so that Canadian boys can work on our farms for the same seasons, May 1 to November 1, at the same wage?

Mr. MacEachen: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think there is a capacity within the Canadian agricultural industry to absorb, certainly in the summer months, large numbers of Canadian students who are interested in doing this kind of work at reasonably good wages and under reasonably good conditions.