

Order Paper Questions

In arriving at the above figures, the term "research" was interpreted, in its broadest sense, to include space science, conceptual studies, research and development, whether done in-house or outside (including contracts, contributions, grants, etc).

The entire space budget of certain departments (i.e. NRC, Transport, F&O and IT&C) falls within this definition. In the case of DOC, substantial amounts are spent on non-research items such as the extension to the David Florida Lab. and its operation (\$6.5 Million) or incentives for the purchase in Canada of the Anik-C and Anik-D satellites (\$10.4 Million). In the case of EMR and Environment, a strong component of their space budgets goes toward the cost of operating satellite data receiving, processing and distribution facilities, for resource management and weather prediction purposes.

TRANSFER OF SASKATCHEWAN LAND TO INDIAN BANDS

Question No. 2,021—Mr. Blenkarn:

1. Did the government transfer to Indian bands in the province of Saskatchewan, the land that it promised to transfer in the original treaties in the province of Saskatchewan that were signed in 1870 and, if so, how much land (a) was transferred (b) remains to be transferred and on what date will the government complete such transfers?

2. Does the government recognize the difference between a person who is a treaty Indian (a person with a direct blood relationship to a headman who signed on behalf of an Indian band a treaty) and a person who is a status Indian as a result of being declared a status Indian under the provisions of the Indian Act?

3. Does the government consider that there is no difference between a status Indian and a treaty Indian?

4. Does the government recognize the Queen Victoria Treaty Protective Association and, if not, will it do so?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):

1. (a) Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 were signed with Indians in Saskatchewan between the years 1871 and 1906. Under these treaties, 68 Saskatchewan bands had approximately 1.7 million acres set aside for their use and benefit.

(b) Validated claims submitted to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development indicate that approximately 1 million acres more will be set aside as reserve land to satisfy the treaty entitlement of some 20 bands.

The completion of negotiations with Saskatchewan bands over their treaty entitlement will depend largely upon the timetable followed by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians for the submission of any outstanding claims.

Under the 1930 transfer of natural resources agreements, Crown lands were turned over to the provinces subject to, among other things, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, making sufficient Crown land available to Canada to fulfil the land provisions of treaties. Consequently, although the treaties are with the federal government, Canada must rely on the co-operation of the provinces to make these lands available when needed. Negotiations are under way in Saskatchewan

and every effort is being made to ensure that treaty obligations will be met.

2. Status Indian is a term that is used synonymously with the term registered Indian. A registered Indian is a person who is entitled to be registered as an Indian in accordance with the Indian Act and who has been recorded as an Indian in the Indian Register.

A large number of status Indians are also treaty Indians. A treaty Indian is a person who is registered as a member of a band that was a signatory to a treaty with the Government of Canada. As a treaty Indian, a person is entitled to the same rights and benefits available to status Indians as well as to such special benefits as were conferred by the particular treaty his band signed.

3. The government does consider that there is a difference between a status Indian and a treaty Indian. A status Indian is a person who is registered as an Indian in accordance with the Indian Act. A treaty Indian is a person who is registered as an Indian in accordance with the Indian Act and who is registered as a member of a band that was a signatory to a treaty with the Government of Canada.

4. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development's relationship is with individual Indians and bands as defined under the terms of the Indian Act of 1951. The department, as a matter of policy, has specific contribution arrangements with associations of Indian bands to support consultation with Indians, on issues of policy, for program development and research.

The Queen Victoria Treaty Protective Association (or the Victorian Embassy) claims to represent Indian bands who already have direct access to government or are members of existing Indian associations. Furthermore, the protective association claims an interest in the "Treaty Trust Fund" of which this department has no record. Trust funds are maintained for individual Indian bands rather than on the basis of treaties.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES

Question No. 2,023—Mr. Blenkarn:

Will the government honour its 1976 commitment to increase interest paid on annuities to at least the present rate being paid on Canada Savings Bonds?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): The government acknowledges no such commitment.

When the Canadian Government Annuities Improvement Act was before Parliament in the autumn of 1975, the then minister of manpower and immigration (Mr. Andras) indicated that the rate of return would be "subject to periodic review depending on future fluctuations in interest rates", but there was no undertaking to keep such rates in line with Canada Savings Bond rates.

As indicated in this House on June 18, 1980, (*Hansard* at p. 2230), a review of the rate of return did take place in the early months of 1980, and it was decided that there should be no adjustments. Interest rates have fluctuated since the time of