

Oral Questions

the Minister for Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Indian chiefs of Canada.

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[English]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the finance minister in the absence of the Minister of Canadian Heritage.

The CBC recently issued a \$380 million bond to finance the new broadcast centre in Toronto. This financing will cost almost \$4 million a year for the next 30 years because the bond is being issued at a rate higher than a regular government bond would be. This \$120 million is excess interest costs.

Can the minister tell the House if his government has had the opportunity to mitigate the loss by cancelling the bond issue and issuing a normal government bond?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec): Mr. Speaker, I will take the member's question under advisement and when I have the details I will be glad to respond.

Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the minister. Did the government give away crown land to the developer in the deal?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec): Mr. Speaker, my response to the second question is the same as the first.

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[Translation]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. Claude Bachand (Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister declared on many occasions, and said it again today in the House, The law applies to everybody and everywhere. Everyone agrees, as mentioned by the Mohawk leader in Akwesasne, that one of the major problems faced by the three reserves is the unrestricted circulation of a high number of firearms. The presence of such firearms has contributed to the creation of a climate of terror; in the last seven years, 70 of the 7,000 people living in the Akwesasne reserve have been killed; the circumstances of their death remain a mystery.

My question to the Prime Minister is as follows: Will he recognize that one of the major problems in the Akwesasne, Kanasatake and Kanawake reserves stems mainly from the proliferation of firearms in the hands of a few individuals allowed to terrorize the people?

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that is the reason why we have asked the RCMP to do its job on the reserves just as anywhere else.

Mr. Claude Bachand (Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, to put an end to this slaughter, what kind of concrete measures does the Prime Minister intend to take to enforce the provisions of the Criminal Code regarding the control of firearms, more precisely on these reserves?

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, they consistently give the impression that the problem of contraband cigarettes is partly or completely located on Indian reserves; which is not true.

I said earlier that the law will apply on Indian reserves as anywhere else, but I find totally deplorable that this constant line of questioning involving natives gives the impression that they are to be blamed for everything happening in this country.

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[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Mr. George Proud (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Since the death of Michael Scott Miller in 1991 there has been great concern with the issue of the RCMP messes, most particularly in regard to the consumption of alcohol in these messes.

Can the Solicitor General inform the House what measures the RCMP will take with respect to the consumption of alcohol in these RCMP messes?

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the RCMP has completed a comprehensive review of its mess structure. A new national constitution governing the activities of messes will be implemented. One result will be that the serving of alcoholic beverages will no longer be available in RCMP messes without the explicit approval of the commanding officer and this approval will be governed by the definitions of special events described in the national mess constitution. I hope this will give reassurance to people in Prince Edward Island and elsewhere who are concerned about this serious matter.

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● (1440)

CROWN CORPORATIONS

Mr. Jim Hart (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

The Auditor General has repeatedly expressed concern that eight crown corporations are exempt from the provisions of the Financial Administration Act which mandate good management