

universities and to some of the community colleges of this nation, propaganda outlining that the government intended to cut \$1.5 billion from post-secondary educational assistance. This, of course, is totally inaccurate, and is an effort by the Conservative Party to try to get a tiny piece of the support of the students, which it has never been able to achieve in the past.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Regan: I want to say to the hon. member that this party and this government have traditionally been the strongest supporters of post-secondary education and students, and that we intend to continue to be so.

REQUEST FOR INCREASED FUNDING

Mr. Gordon Gilchrist (Scarborough East): Madam Speaker, I think we can take a great deal of comfort from the fact that this is pure rumour and speculation, regardless of the source, which I suspect is not the Conservative Party but, rather, is information received from the academics.

Is the government, then, prepared to increase funding respecting this vital educational matter so that not just the annual wage increases of the academics but also the actual plants—the universities, campuses—can be upgraded, and the equipment needed can be bought, so that students can become well schooled and well able to handle the urgent needs of a future vital Canada, which the minister espouses?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Secretary of State): Madam Speaker, I am heartened at this expression of support for post-secondary education by the hon. member, and I hope he will try to influence those around him.

In relation to his question I suggest that he, as a member from the province of Ontario, might well direct his remarks to Queen's Park, because during the years since 1974-75 the federal government has done exactly what he has called for. We have increased the federal share of the total cost of post-secondary education from about 45 per cent to 59 per cent; whereas in the same period, according to statistics I take to be accurate, the share of the provincial Conservative government has been diminished from 34 per cent to 21.8 per cent.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Regan: If there is any danger in relation to the post-secondary educational system in this country, particularly in the hon. member's province, but in many of the others also, it is a result of a diminution of effort by the provincial governments. I hope the hon. member will direct his remarks to them so that they might reverse that trend.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

[Translation]

PENITENTIARIES

INQUIRY RESPECTING CONSTRUCTION OF DETENTION CENTRE AT DONNACONA, P.Q.

Mr. Rolland Dion (Portneuf): Madam Speaker, my question is for the hon. Solicitor General of Canada. The minister announced officially on April 4 last that the cabinet had chosen the city of Donnacona, in the Portneuf riding, as the site of a new maximum security institution for the Canadian correctional service. Can the minister tell us what progress is being made and when the Department of Public Works will start building this institution?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I can assure the House that everything is on schedule regarding the detention centre to be built in Donnacona, and that preliminary work will start in the fall of 1982.

* * *

● (1440)

[English]

NATIVE RIGHTS

CLAIMS SUBMITTED BY BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIANS

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. On October 16, 1980, the Nuu Chah Nulth Tribal Council on the west coast of Vancouver Island submitted a comprehensive aboriginal claim to the minister. Over a year has passed and to date the Nuu Chah Nulth people have not received word as to whether or not their claim has been accepted. On November 16, 1980, the Haida people of the Queen Charlotte Islands submitted a claim. They have not received word as to whether their claim has been accepted. A leaked memo, over the minister's signature, says that priority lands claims settlement should be given to areas where the government urgently requires a settlement, in other words, areas slated for massive economic development and where people have to negotiate—

Madam Speaker: Order. Every minute I expect the question to come, but it is a new sentence in the preamble. Will the hon. member put the question?

Mr. Manly: Will the minister inform the House whether this policy is the reason that he has not informed the Nuu Chah Nulth people and the Haida people as to whether their claims have been accepted for negotiation?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): No, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Manly: Madam Speaker, after a year the people would really appreciate an answer.