

Motions for Papers

dents on the point are pretty clear that, at this stage, our rules do not require that an answer be provided within any specific period of time.

From a statistical point of view, I should simply note that in this session we have had 29 starred questions on the order paper. Only five of these are still outstanding. Three of the 29 were standing in the name of the hon. member for Simcoe North. At this stage all of those three have, in fact been responded to. Therefore I think that our rate of reply to those questions is an acceptable rate. We always try to do better. I hope the representations the hon. member has made will come to the attention of the committee.

Mr. Speaker: That seems on all sides to be the most effective result, if in fact we can persuade the procedure committee to re-examine this matter to see if it has any recommendations. At the moment I am not able to act on the representations of the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Rynard), but I hope that the procedure committee will do so.

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MOTION FOR PAPERS

Mr. Ralph E. Goodale (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, notice of motion for the production of papers No. 81 is acceptable to the government.

[Text]

COPY OF LETTER TO DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE, BY W. R. WILSON, LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION

Motion No. 81—**Mr. McKinnon:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the letter sent to the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce by Mr. W. R. Wilson, Senior Corporate Vice-President, Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, dated June 24, 1976, as referred to in Article 39.60 of the LRPA Contract.

Motion agreed to.

[English]

Mr. Goodale: I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the other notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Mr. Goodale.]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—ALLEGED POLICY FAILURE RESPECTING INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

Mr. J. R. Holmes (Lambton-Kent) moved:

That this House condemns the failure of the government to provide economic leadership to Canada's Indians, and in particular its failure to establish and maintain a cohesive and articulate policy on the Indian Economic Development Fund, as revealed and documented by studies, confidential memoranda and other related data.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the importance of the motion before the House of Commons and the issues arising from the motion are recurrent themes that have eroded the credibility of the Government of Canada and its capacity to govern. The absence of financial control since the inception of the Indian Economic Development Fund in 1970 is a dramatic illustration of the Auditor General's oft repeated remark that the Government of Canada has lost control of the public purse.

● (1540)

The absence of policy and the failure of the Government of Canada to adhere to the mandate establishing the program has had a disastrous effect on the Indian Economic Development Fund. The actions of departmental officials, presumably with the minister's knowledge, knowingly making wrong decisions for political purposes, as noted in the Woods, Gordon and Company report, has had a demoralizing effect on the department, has destroyed the credibility of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and unfortunately has tainted the vast majority of the Indian community which has been the innocent victim of this charade.

The Royal Commission on Financial Management and Accountability is particularly germane to this debate. The unrealistic information provided to members of parliament, the inability of members to obtain information reflecting the realities of programs, have specifically undermined the relevancy of the standing committee to examine effectively the estimates, and is therefore a direct threat to our parliamentary system.

Before proceeding to specifics I must emphasize at the outset that the victims of the government's incompetence in managing the IEDF are the Indian people in Canada. Let there be no doubt in the minds of members in this Chamber that, on examination of the facts presented during this debate, the bottom line of the ledger will reveal the Indians of Canada as having suffered because the minister and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development have failed to provide the necessary leadership to implement and develop an effective program for the administration of the Indian Economic Development Fund.

My colleagues and I are aware of successes attributable to the economic development program, although it should be noted in many instances that this has been achieved by the entrepreneurship of Indians rather than through the efforts of