

Inquiries of the Ministry

We have established permanent contacts between my department and the representatives of the government of Newfoundland, in order to find the best solutions to the economic problems of that province, but no general program for Newfoundland is being negotiated between the federal government and the provincial government.

[English]

FLOODS**SASKATCHEWAN—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT RESPECTING FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, in view of the heavy losses incurred by many residents of Saskatchewan as a result of flood damage, can the Minister of Public Works now say whether he has received any communication from the Saskatchewan government indicating flood damage costs and, if so, what action has the federal government taken?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I cannot recall any representations received from the Saskatchewan government in relation to work to be done by my department.

VETERANS AFFAIRS**WOODS REPORT—REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION BY STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that on April 14 the minister told me not to lose heart and that my patience would be rewarded, and in view of the fact I have not lost heart and have been very patient, can the Minister of Veterans Affairs now tell me when the Woods report will be referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs?

Hon. John-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will be consistent and advise the hon. member to continue to be patient.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in view of the general notion that this session may adjourn at the end of June, can the minister say whether this report will be referred to the committee before that date?

Mr. Dubé: Mr. Speaker, we are advancing as quickly as possible with the preparation of the white paper.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I asked about the Woods report, not the white paper.

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT RESPECTING SELF-GOVERNMENT**

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, before you call the orders of the day I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Inasmuch as it was some months ago that the minister said he had made his decision about the structure of local government in the Northwest Territories, can he advise the house now when he intends to inform the public about this decision?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Soon, Mr. Speaker.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**BUSINESS OF SUPPLY****ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 58—FAILURE TO SHARE THE ABUNDANCE OF GOODS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE**

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue) moved:

That, in the opinion of the house, the government has failed to take adequate measures in order to give Canadians the benefit of a policy of distribution of goods and services which would allow each citizen to obtain his share of Canadian abundance.

Mr. Speaker, the motion we are moving today clearly expresses our sincere belief that—

—the government has failed to take adequate measures in order to give Canadians the benefit of a policy of distribution of goods and services which would allow each citizen to obtain his share of Canadian abundance.

● (3:20 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, if we go back a year, everyone will remember—the government members especially—the promises made by this government to the effect that once elected, it would establish a just society in Canada.

In last year's Speech from the Throne we could read in many places that the government planned to establish a just society, to fight poverty in Canada efficiently.

Well, a year later, we notice that the just society referred to, has not yet been established. We notice that the number of poor people is increasing instead of decreasing. We notice that instead of fighting poverty, the