

*Inquiries of the Ministry***MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26****INDIAN AFFAIRS****ALBERTA—PROPOSED CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL CENTRE**

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of proposing a motion under Standing Order 26. I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the decision by the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy, being a confidential document of cabinet which was leaked, confirmed on July 29, 1971, that since the Indian Association of Alberta in March, 1970, was the first to present a proposal for a cultural-educational centre, the pilot stage of that proposal be the first to be considered for approval by the standing subcommittee; and the subsequent decision to proceed with that pilot stage which was disapproved and cancelled by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, thus destroying the effectiveness of the organization of the Indian people in Alberta and their participation in ongoing programs.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Skeena has filed the notice required under Standing Order 26. The hon. member suggests that there should be a suspension of the scheduled work of the House for the purpose of considering a decision which he states was taken in July last and subsequently withdrawn by ministerial decision.

These decisions are said to relate to the establishment of cultural-educational facilities as proposed by the Indian Association of Alberta in 1970. All this may be of national importance and of national interest, but I am quite convinced that it is not a situation which should be considered by the House under the terms of Standing Order 26. It may well be that the matter should be discussed by the House, but I would think other opportunities should be available to hon. members to discuss the matter, as suggested by Standing Order 26. What I am suggesting to the hon. member and to hon. members who are interested in this very important matter, as indicated by the motion made under Standing Order 43 earlier this day, is that there should be other opportunities to debate this matter and that in any event it should not be considered at this time by way of an emergency debate. I therefore regret that the hon. member's motion cannot be put at this time.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**INDIAN AFFAIRS****PROPOSED CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL CENTRES—
CABINET DECISION—RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF
CO-OPERATION WITH INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy did decide in the month of

July in principle that the Department of the Secretary of State and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development be authorized to establish jointly a five-year renewable financing program for the support of native cultural-educational centres, as appears to be the content of what purports to be a copy of a record of the committee's decision? Was such a decision made and, if so, is there any particular reason why it has not been announced in the House?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I think the House will agree that it is not proper for any minister or for myself to refer to discussions in cabinet and decisions taken in cabinet until such time as the government wishes to make such an announcement.

Mr. Stanfield: Do I understand that the Prime Minister refuses to confirm or deny that what purports to be a record of the decision is in fact a record of such a decision?

Mr. Trudeau: Do I understand that the Leader of the Opposition disagrees with this stance under the constitutional law?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: When is a leak not a leak, Mr. Speaker?

• (2:20 p.m.)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Heavy water leaks.

Mr. Nesbitt: You guys had better hire a plumber.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition might be given an opportunity to ask his supplementary question.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, in view of the announced intention of the Indian Association of Alberta to discontinue involvement with the federal government in any programs in areas such as education and others in which it had been participating and the serious effect this may have on future progress in working out problems associated with the native peoples in that province, indeed in the whole of Canada, does the Prime Minister intend to propose any particular measures with a view to repairing this breakdown in co-operation and communication between the government and this important association of Indian people?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the minister responsible for Indian affairs has always indicated willingness to consult and co-operate with the Indian people to a degree which I believe is unequalled compared with any previous time. If an association wants to go out of existence there is, of course, nothing the government can do about it. But we stand ready at all times to discuss our Indian policies with the Indians, with the opposition, indeed with anyone at all.

EDUCATION—REQUEST FOR INQUIRY BY STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Not only because of the particu-