

Inquiries of the Ministry

Health and Welfare. It arises from a question asked earlier by my hon. friend from Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. In light of the Prime Minister's suggestion that there should be a retrenchment in the labour force, has the minister suggested to the Native Council of Canada that Métis and non-status Indians should continue to live on welfare, or was he able to offer them a more positive response to the proposals in the paper recently presented to him by the council?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I pointed out, commenting on the many observations contained in their brief, that many of the recommendations we were putting forward in the white paper, including amendments to the Canada Assistance Plan, would materially assist many of the Métis to get off welfare.

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): My supplementary is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that \$1 billion has been offered by President Nixon to the Indians of Alaska in exchange for land and oil, has the right hon. gentleman considered making a similar offer to the Indians inhabiting the Yukon and the Northwest Territories?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): May I ask whether payment would be made in dollars, or wampum?

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YOUTH**OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION**

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a question for the Secretary of State. In view of the fact that the youth program planned for the coming summer months is subject to a deadline of April 14 in many cases, I believe, and since there is still vast confusion all over the country as to how this program is to be carried out, will the Secretary of State, or whichever minister is in charge of this scheme, give an assurance to the House before we adjourn for the recess that further consideration will be given to the plan and an extension of time granted if necessary?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I think, Mr. Speaker, from the hundreds of projects we are receiving, that the hon. member is more confused than the young of this country.

I am surprised at the hon. member being so confused that apparently he does not know that a meeting has been arranged for five o'clock this afternoon for all hon. members interested in meeting the civil servants, information officers and other people in a position to supply

[Mr. Barnett.]

all the information that they might not have yet or even that which they have received already but, and I have evidence that this is true of some opposition members, have not read.

[English]

Mr. Nesbitt: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have received no such notice as the minister refers to, nor have other hon. members. I am beginning to reach the conclusion that the minister does not know his rear end from third base.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**EARLY APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the recent, regretted resignation of the chairman of Devco, Mr. Robert Burns Cameron, a great Canadian who has served Nova Scotia and Canada well, and bearing in mind the urgent need for preserving the continuity of office of chairman of this important corporation, can the minister advise the House how soon he may be appointing someone to fill this vacancy?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I regret the resignation of Mr. Cameron and I share the hon. member's feelings about him. I hope that very soon I can find a replacement.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): In view of the uncertainty with regard to the future of Devco, would the minister be prepared to make a statement on this important question when the House resumes later this month?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I believe that the chairman manager with then have been appointed.

[English]

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion seek and take the advice of Mr. R. B. Cameron in any appointment he may make to the chairmanship of the board and also in filling vacancies on the board of directors?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that we shall consult all those who are familiar with Devco and its problems. In fact, Mr. Cameron is one of the most able people familiar with the problems of Cape Breton.