

● (1450)

Mr. McDermid: That is funded separate from the agreement by the Department; is that correct?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): That is over and above the \$11 million to which I referred earlier.

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Chairman, my next question deals with the appointment of members of this commission. Without naming specific names, perhaps the Minister could relay to us his philosophy regarding the make-up of that commission and who he would see as sitting on that particular commission.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Chairman, those are Governor in Council appointments. However, the agreement is quite clear, although it is not reflected here or in any other Act, that we will consult with the Cree and there will be an agreement with them about who will be on the commission. As we deal with a commission like the CLC or various other bodies of that kind which deal with their own affairs, we would consult with them and try to arrive at an agreement as to personnel. The appointments would then go through as Governor in Council appointments.

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Chairman, the Minister will excuse me for asking that question but I did want to get that answer on the record. From time to time some of the appointments that are made by the Government to some of these boards and commissions are questionable. The Minister for External Relations is questioning me with a puzzled look. However, he knows very well what I am talking about. I wanted to get the Minister's answer on the record to ensure that consultations would take place with the Cree and Naskapi regarding that commission.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Chairman, I am glad the Hon. Member did that because he has now served the interests of the Cree by getting the assurance on the record of *Hansard*. However, it is also contained within the Bill itself. Clause 158 which can be found on page 76 of the Bill reads in part:

—a maximum of three individuals appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Cree Regional Authority and the Naskapi band.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask one question of the Minister. Could the Minister briefly outline what the major difference will be, once this Act goes into effect, between the self-government provided for in the Bill and the self-government of a municipality?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Chairman, may I say that that is a very tough question because it calls for a very detailed and long answer. I will do my best to answer the question in a short time.

The powers given to the Cree-Naskapi are more extensive than those given to a local government, and I think if the Hon. Member would look at the Bill he would be inclined to agree with me about that. Clause 45 of the Bill deals with those powers.

James Bay Agreement

I will simply read through some of my quick notes. They have the power to pass by-laws respecting the administration of band affairs, the internal management of the band, the regulation of buildings and other structures, the sanitary conditions of public and private property, the regulation of waste disposal, the establishment and operation of fire departments, the prohibition of the sale or exchange of alcohol, the possession and consumption of alcohol, the protection of the environment, the prevention of pollution, taxation for local purposes, the regulation of roads and transportation and the regulation of hunting, fishing and trapping.

Part of the whole essence of the Bill is the administration of lands and those powers are very extensive. I would say that in that area alone the powers are much more extensive than those given to municipalities. I would say that the bands have the responsibility of a government of a local municipality plus, and I would underline "plus".

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Chairman, I have one short question to ask. I realize that we wish to pass this legislation quickly. I am sure the Minister agrees with me that the housing, education, health, water and sewage conditions on most reserves throughout Canada are completely inadequate. I wonder how he sees this piece of legislation helping to bring those conditions in these regions up to a standard that is closer to the national norm. How does he see that happening through this piece of legislation?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Chairman, we are looking for the appropriate section of the Agreement now. The Hon. Member will recall the urgings of the Cree and Naskapi during the hearings of the standing committee. They felt, and legitimately so, that we were not living up to the spirit and intent of the Agreement. In the Agreement we said that as we went down the road, we should improve the infrastructure substantially for the Cree but that statement was not couched in wording that could cast a specific legal obligation.

In living up to the spirit of the Agreement, we made some \$61 million in additional funds available. Much of that money was designed for the type of infrastructures just identified by the Hon. Member for Churchill. We tried to live up to that spirit.

I suppose one could say that the entire Agreement required the federal Government, as part of its obligations under the Agreement, to pay a greater degree of attention to and put a greater call on its financial reserves for the Cree, and perhaps that is the situation across the country generally. However, the Cree have every right to that special attention as a result of the Agreement that was negotiated. Much of that money has been spent and more of it is to be spent. Most of the \$61 million has already been paid out, as the Hon. Member will recall from hearing that review announced.

The most relevant section of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement is Section 28.1.1 which reads as follows:

28.1.1 Programs, funding and technical assistance presently provided by Canada and Québec, and the obligations of the said governments with respect to such programs and funding shall continue to apply to the James Bay Crees on the