

lawyers in private practice to represent the interests of the government in cases from time to time. It may well be that much of that work is done in other parts of the country.

I will get the facts and respond to the hon. member in due course.

[Translation]

**Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, the minister will have to take my next question under advisement as well.

In the Ottawa-Hull area, it is even worse. The value of contracts awarded to Quebecers is around 2 per cent, as opposed to 98 per cent for Ontario. Furthermore, 99 per cent of all research papers are drafted in English only.

What explanation does the Minister of Justice have for this tendency among his departmental officials to prefer suppliers in English Canada and a unilingual English approach?

[English]

**Hon. Allan Rock (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I will take note of the question, I will get the facts and I will respond.

In the meantime, I am constrained to answer right off the top that the business of the Department of Justice is in both official languages.

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### INDIAN AFFAIRS

**Mr. Darrel Stinson (Okanagan—Shuswap, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

In 1992 the Auditor General's report warned the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development needed to get a grip on what was happening in forestry practices on the reserves. That potential was there for what has happened on the Stoney Reserve.

Did you read that report? Did you pay any attention to that report?

**The Speaker:** I ask all hon. members to please address the Chair in their questions.

• (1455)

**Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I will give a couple of comparisons. We have a problem on the Stoney Reserve. I have been there, the police have been there and my ministry has been there. That problem has existed for one year.

### Oral Questions

The member stands up in the House, with all his truckloads going out last week for the first time from a First Nation in his riding; he has probably discovered the problem.

In B.C., where my critic sits—

**Mr. Abbott:** We are talking about Alberta.

**Mr. Irwin:** It is the same philosophy no matter where the Reform sits or where the Nishga sit, who have been trying to settle their claim on forestry for at least two decades. The Reform sits quietly while it represents the Nishga while a load of lumber leaves their territory every four minutes. Yet my critic and the Reform remain silent. I have been there and I am doing something about it. Maybe the Reform should do the same.

**Mr. Darrel Stinson (Okanagan—Shuswap, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, after a year of this happening and the minister having had lots of time to look into it, could he assure us this is not happening anywhere else?

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Beaches—Woodbine.

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### GOVERNMENT SPENDING

**Ms. Maria Minna (Beaches—Woodbine, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board.

All Canadians want to ensure their tax dollars are used in a responsible way. Many complained that last minute shopping spree by departments at the end of the fiscal year should be monitored and controlled.

Can the minister outline what Treasury Board has done to put an end to the March madness spending binge?

**Hon. Arthur C. Eggleton (President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for Infrastructure, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I share the hon. member's concern about year end spending and so did the Auditor General of Canada in his two reports in the 1980s in which that issue was raised.

The Auditor General did not raise the issue in the sense that he criticized what the money was being spent on, as he said the purposes were well defined, but that there was a lot of spending toward the end of the year and we needed better cash management practices.

I am pleased to say we have instituted a 5 per cent operating budget carry forward for departments so they do not get into that year end spending spree. Furthermore, I have written my colleagues in the ministry and my deputy minister has written his counterparts to help ensure the procedure to cut out the year end spending rush is followed.

We have asked for audits of each of the departments and have asked that they be submitted by June 30 of this year so we can get better control of the cash management of taxpayers money.