

*Oral Questions*

a tremendous incentive and legacy for our youth, and amateur athletics as a whole.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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**ABORIGINAL RIGHTS****GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. A federal government position paper dated March 26 seems to indicate that the Government may be ready to advocate the recognition of aboriginal self-government and entrench it in our Constitution. However, like so many government documents, it is not clear at all. It hedges and fudges quite a bit.

I would like the Minister to clarify this for us. Is the Government of Canada going to advocate, at the First Ministers' Conference, that the right to aboriginal self-government be entrenched in the Constitution as an inherent right? Or, do all these ifs, ands, and buts in the document mean that all we are going to do is transfer to aboriginal people some administrative duties and responsibilities? If that is all it means, we do not need a constitutional conference.

**Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, as I think the Hon. Member is aware, according to the papers the document he has is a "leaked" document. Since it is a "leaked" document by definition, it is fair for me to say that I probably do not know what it is. If I knew what it was, it would not be "leaked". I am not sure exactly what the Hon. Member is saying since I do not have a copy of the document he has in his hand.

With regard to the question about self-government, I think the Hon. Member would be the first to insist that the discussion ought to occur and the information ought to flow between the Government, the provinces, and the aboriginal people. We will do it at the appropriate time.

**FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE**

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior):** Mr. Speaker, that is exactly the point. Unless we will have a recognition of the inherent right of aboriginal people to self-government, and unless the provinces are prepared to go along with such a progressive position as may be in this document, then all we will have next Tuesday and Wednesday is another public relations exercise, which the Tories are so good at.

● (1450)

**Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I hope the Hon. Member won't mind if I remind him that the previous confer-

ences in 1983 and 1984 were run by his Party and, by all standards, they were lacking in success.

I can assure him that on April 2 and April 3, if he would give us a little hope and charity, he will find some success which his own Party was unable to deliver.

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**TRADE****UNITED STATES ACTION AGAINST CANADIAN PORK EXPORTS**

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. He will remember that a week and one-half ago there was much bally-hoo about the new relationship between the Prime Minister and the President of the United States and between the Government of Canada and the administration in the United States. I understood the import of that to be that Canadians were going to benefit from this brand new and cozy relationship. Why, then, are the Minister's friends in the administration in the United States shafting our hog producers?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** I must apologize, Mr. Speaker. I did not hear the Hon. Member's question. I thought it was directed to the Minister of International Trade.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Blaikie:** It was.

**Mr. Wise:** However, I would like to utilize this opportunity to respond to the question.

**Mr. Riis:** You have no idea what the question is but you will say something anyway.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. It is a little difficult for the Chair to accept that a Minister can respond to a question which he did not hear. The Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain, on a supplementary question.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**IMPACT ON CANADA**

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question, but I asked the original question of the Minister for International Trade. He does not seem to understand that it is his responsibility. Therefore I will also ask him how many Canadians will be sacrificed before the Minister and the Government understand that the new relationship works in only one direction, in favour of the United States of America and against the Canadian best interest?