

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

NEGOTIATIONS WITH COUNCIL FOR YUKON INDIANS

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is not here so I will address my question to the Prime Minister, although had the Deputy been here he may have wished to answer. Was a decision made in Cabinet this morning regarding the Council for Yukon Indians? Will the negotiations be allowed to continue into the new year? Will the benefits to the elders continue to be received? Will the land freeze be maintained? Will funding for those negotiations go on until they are satisfactorily completed?

Hon. Jake Epp (Acting Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I would like to reply to the Hon. Member on behalf of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I know that he has been seized with this situation. He has been looking at it very carefully over the past weeks. The Hon. Member will know that there has been a long period of negotiation with the CYI and the Government of Yukon. We are all hoping for a satisfactory conclusion.

As to the four specifics which he mentioned that flow from the agreement, at the present time I can only tell him that I will take that to the Minister. I can assure him that the Minister is well aware of those difficulties.

STIPULATED DEADLINE

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior): Mr. Speaker, I gather that no decision has been made. In working towards this decision will the Minister not agree that December 31 was never a deadline but only a target date? Will he take that into consideration so that the future of the Council for Yukon Indians will not be foreclosed by a decision taken in haste?

• (1450)

Hon. Jake Epp (Acting Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I recognize the sensitivity with which the Member brings this matter to the House and I will convey that to the Minister.

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DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER, BISHOP TUTU OF SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Has he had an opportunity to meet with Bishop Tutu who is visiting here from South Africa?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not. However, I look forward to this afternoon when I meet with this extraordinary and exemplary man who

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is with us today. On your behalf I want to welcome him to the House of Commons.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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INCOME TAX

REQUEST FOR TAX ON RICH PERSONS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Today members from all sections of the House have asked questions about the Government's intention or otherwise to impose special taxes on particular social programs. I regret to say that the Government has not answered these questions but has suggested that it wants to raise money for the poor.

My question to the Prime Minister is very direct. Considering that the previous Liberal Government reduced taxes on the rich by \$1.7 billion, and there is another \$400 million left untouched because thousands of upper income Canadians pay no tax whatsoever, would he obtain this additional revenue, which is more than \$2 billion, by putting a reasonable tax on the rich instead of undermining the credibility of our social programs by the process that his Government is going through right now?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is pretty apparent. The desperation to see who will be the Leader of the Opposition is coming through every day. That is the real problem. All the hanky-panky around here deals with the NDP trying to get over there. That is all it is, and everyone knows it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: As my hon. friend knows, and I will repeat it again, we are fully committed to the concept of universality. We are opposed to means tests and we are seeking a formula which will allow us to get more money into the hands of the poor and the underprivileged in our society. I hope that the NDP agrees with this. I hope you are not opposed to that.

The other matter that we are in agreement with is the concept of introducing more fairness into the tax system. We propose to do that, and we hope you will applaud that as well when the Minister of Finance brings in his new budget in April.

TAX REFORM

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has expressed concern about getting more income that can be distributed in a more equitable way to the poor in our society. That is something that my Party has fought for year in and year out.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!