

seniors, and they are. They can be put forward with regard to farmers, and they are. They can be put forward with regard to transportation, and they are. The criticisms which I have mentioned, underfunding, overfunding, and evading responsibility, are things that I do not shy away from. I do not believe them to be an attack on myself, on the Government, on programs, or on Indian people because I can see that the same criticisms are made in other segments of society.

Over the past decade there has been substantial growth in the amount of dollars distributed. My colleagues know the numbers. There has been substantial growth for two reasons. Successive Governments of Canada have recognized more of their responsibilities. Over a number of years the number of Indian people for whom the federal Government has responsibility has grown. Departmental expenditures over the last while have outstripped inflation and the growth rate of the Indian population. Since the election in 1984, the expenditures of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development have increased by nearly 30 per cent.

Speaking of dollars, 80 per cent of the dollars of the Department are spent on transfer payments to territorial Governments for education, social development, capital expenditures on reserves, and for health, safety, and economic development, which are also priority areas. From time to time additional funding is required for emergencies. One emergency which comes to mind is Winisk, a community which was wiped out by recent floods.

It is not only a question of how we spend, but how effective it is and whether it meets the needs of the individual communities. Who would be in a better position to say whether we are spending it properly and actually to spend it properly than the native communities themselves? The increases must be made with Indian control over the expenditures. This is not new. We started 30 years ago to transfer responsibility to Indian people for the handling of the dollars which they can best handle. It has changed. In 1972 only 20 per cent of the Department's program expenditures were handled by Indian people. In 1979-80 it increased to 39 per cent. Today the figure is 59 per cent, and I hope that by 1990 it will reach 70 per cent.

Before I close I would like to say that the devolution plan, which was authorized by the Treasury Board, should decrease the number of employees in the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development from 6,200 in 1985-86 to 4,200 by 1990-91. This means that we will have to transfer the dollars for those person-years to Indian Governments. That is where those dollars will be expended in the most proper and efficient fashion to benefit Indian people.

In conclusion, as significant gains are made by Indian Governments in gaining control over their daily lives, the Indian Governments will have more responsibility. The more responsibility they have, the more they will have to be responsible to their electorate. We presently have two keys, one key that the Department turns and one key that the Indian Governments turn. As the Department hands a key to the Indian Governments, it also hands the responsibility to those

### Supply

Governments. That is something that the Government of Canada and the Members of this House do not shirk from. We look forward to doing more in the future.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I have been given notice of a point of order by the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Lewis).

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### AGRICULTURE

#### AUTHORIZATION TO TRAVEL FOR SUBCOMMITTEE

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, there has been discussion among the Parties with regard to this motion and the timing of it. I appreciate the indulgence of the House to allow me to move it. I move:

That the Sub-committee of the Standing Committee on Agriculture studying the tobacco growing industry be authorized to travel to Tillsonburg, Ontario, from March 25 to 27, 1987, inclusive, and to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, and Montreal, Quebec, from March 29 to April 1, 1987, inclusive, to hold public hearings relating to the Sub-committee's ongoing study, and that necessary staff accompany the Sub-committee.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

#### ALLOTTED DAY—S. O. 82—ABORIGINAL RIGHTS—SELF-GOVERNMENT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Parry:

That this House condemns the Government for its timid and unimaginative approach to the advancement of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada, for its continuing failure to offer long term, fair, and just responses to the social, cultural, economic and political aspirations of Canada's First Nations, for its unwillingness to recognize and affirm the inherent rights to Aboriginal self-determination, and for thereby impeding the improvement of the health, heritage and economic well-being of present and future generations of Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

**Mr. Penner:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern development (Mr. McKnight) chose to participate in this debate. The task of being Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is an onerous and demanding one. That is one of the reasons that, over the years, there has been a good working relationship between members of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and