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decide, the exercise of self-government rights would have to be negotiated. To do otherwise would result in legal and institutional chaos for which we would all be responsible. I cannot believe that this is the intention of any Government or aboriginal representative around the constitutional table. This Government's record clearly shows that whatever the nature or source of aboriginal peoples' right to self-government, we are prepared to negotiate with them on how those rights could be exercised.

**Mr. Manly:** Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Member who just spoke for his comments on another aspect of self-government, namely, the Cree-Naskapi Act which incorporates the self-government of the Cree-Naskapi people. Under Section 158 of the federal legislation, there is a requirement for the federal commission to look at it. The report, which was brought in a short time ago, stated:

—the federal Government has failed in particular to respect the formal financial agreements for the implementation of the Act, and has thus placed the implementation of the Act in jeopardy.

The Government of Canada has decided to repudiate the report of the Cree-Naskapi Commission which was set up in accordance with the provisions of the Act. I wonder if the Hon. Member could say what that repudiation of the commission's report—which details the federal Government's failure to live up to financial commitments—indicates about the Government's total attitude towards aboriginal self-government?

**Mr. MacDougall:** Madam Speaker, I think the Hon. Member at this time is well aware, because it was discussed earlier this week in the House in questions to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. McKnight), that that subject is now before the courts and it is improper at this time to pass any judgment on it.

**Mr. Hicks:** Mr. Speaker, may I first congratulate the Hon. Member on his very genuine interest and his great depth in matters of the aboriginal peoples of Canada? I know they are extremely well represented by his hard work on the standing committee. Reference has been made on several occasions today to the negotiated process and litigation which would result in solutions imposed by the courts. I wonder if the Hon. Member would clarify for the House his feelings as to which of these methods would be best for aboriginal peoples? Does the Hon. Member feel that litigation would improve in any way the relationship between Canada's aboriginal peoples and Canadians? I might add that this is a relationship which all Canadians are working hard to build.

**Mr. MacDougall:** Madam Speaker, I would like to begin by saying I certainly thank the Hon. Member for his comments. Not only today, but for five years as a Member representing a riding in northern Ontario, I have had great concern for our aboriginal Canadians and I want to ensure we do address their concerns on an ongoing basis. As my colleague knows, this year, last year and the year before, the standing committee has always tried to take the view of working with our aboriginal Canadians to make certain we address their concerns. This

morning I had a meeting with representatives of the Ontario Chiefs. I always feel the best approach is to be able to sit down and negotiate. I think this is the approach our Government and our Prime Minister has taken since we came into office in 1984. We feel it is much better to be able to sit down and negotiate. As we well realize today, the dollars it would take to be put into the court system are much better spent in regards to enhancing and helping the native people of Canada, whether in regard to health care and education or in helping them to achieve self-government. I think negotiations are what we have to continue. We know there are 17 different groups with which we have to negotiate. That is the way we have operated until today, and we will continue to do so.

**Mr. Tupper:** Madam Speaker, I want to compliment my colleague, the Hon. Member for Timiskaming (Mr. MacDougall), on his presentation this afternoon. My colleague represents a very valuable but difficult constituency in northern Ontario. He represents a community which makes a substantive contribution to our mining industry. The Hon. Member also has a very substantive component of our native community. I was particularly pleased this afternoon to recognize his understanding and appreciation of the problem which not only confronts his native people in Timiskaming but native people all across Canada. I particularly compliment him on his analysis of the alternatives of self-government which could be made available to the native people. I think that clearly demonstrates the breadth and depth of the Hon. Member's understanding and awareness, not only of the problem but of the solutions.

As I was listening to the Hon. Member's presentation about those alternatives, I was reminded about some of the poll results which have come to my attention recently. More than 60 per cent of all Canadians favour negotiations involving the federal and provincial Governments to implement self-government arrangements for aboriginal peoples. At the same time, similar polls indicate that nearly 80 per cent of Canadians favour a constitutional amendment, recognizing the right of aboriginal peoples to self-government. This polling indicates very strongly where Canadians stand on this issue. I would like to ask the Hon. Member how these findings relate to the position of this Government and his own position on this matter.

**Mr. MacDougall:** Madam Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for Nepean—Carleton (Mr. Tupper) for his comments. I do come from the northern part of Canada and we do rely on the resource base industry as vital. I should mention that in one area of the mining sector, about which I know my colleague is very interested, we have been able to work with a mining company to enable the native people of the area to train for aspects within the mining sector. It just shows how both groups can work together in order to come out with an enhanced program which allows employment for the native people of that region.