

S.O. 21

want more privileges, including the vote. If this keeps up, the old concept of punishment will disappear entirely.

● (1110)

No one wants to go back to bread and water diets, or to breaking rocks, and everyone wants to encourage rehabilitation. However, reform does not come from catering to those who break the law but rather from a desire within the individual to live within the law.

Can you picture prisoners who broke the Elections Act, or who are in for treason, or rape and murder, making demands on the candidates? Would candidates in ridings with an institution population that could sway the vote have to go from cell to cell making promises?

The bleeding hearts had better give this matter much more consideration. After all, our correctional institutions must be places of punishment and not houses of pleasure.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS ON MANITOBA RESERVES

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Mr. Speaker, on May 1 some 2,500 students were kept out of schools on four Manitoba reserves to protest the very sorry state of affairs at those schools. Over 600 of those students have yet to return.

Whether or not one agrees with the tactics, there is no denying that, when compared to provincial schools, reserve schools are seriously underfunded. Unfortunately, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Munro) has not been giving this issue serious attention despite his nice sounding platitudes.

At the beginning of May the Minister agreed that their complaint was valid and promised to do something about it. He urged the chiefs to be patient and said that he would take their case to Cabinet as soon as possible. Three weeks passed, with no action.

Last Monday in Winnipeg, at a meeting with the four chiefs involved, the Minister gave his word to the chiefs that the submission for funding would go to Treasury Board on Tuesday. As of this morning that submission was still on the Minister's desk awaiting his approval before it could go to Treasury Board.

Indian students cannot wait for the Minister to squeeze their concerns into his leadership campaign schedule. If he cannot find the time to address these concerns he should resign and turn the Ministry over to someone with both the time and inclination to give Indian concerns the urgent attention they need.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

ABILITY TO HONOUR CANADIAN COMMITMENT

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, some months ago a Cabinet document prepared by the Department of National Defence came into my possession. This document clearly indicated that, given the state of the equipment available to Canada's Armed Forces and the funding levels projected by the Government, it would soon be, if it is not already, impossible for Canada to fulfill the stated defence policy objectives of the Government including, of course, our obligations under NATO.

It is an unflattering comment on the media in Canada that, when this document was released some weeks ago in Calgary, it attracted very little media attention, but when it was released in Washington, D.C., last Wednesday, it immediately became a matter of significant media attention in Canada. That, however, is an aside to my main point.

Questions based on this Cabinet document were put in the House yesterday by myself and my colleague, the Hon. Member for York-Peel (Mr. Stevens). It was quite evident that the thrust of our concern was that the Government was not honouring our commitment to NATO. One such commitment, for example, is our obligation to provide 20 warships to NATO, ten within 48 hours' notice. The Minister's own document indicates that we will have a 12-ship navy by 1990 and therefore would be unable to fulfill that NATO obligation.

It is hypocrisy to claim that we are fulfilling our obligation when we are not. Hypocrisy is the worst of all alternatives.

Canada is extremely well served by our Armed Forces whose excellence is proven each year through competitions with our NATO Allies. However, in this modern era it is essential that we provide these Forces with the necessary capital equipment to enable them to do the job that needs to be done. I repeat that we are committed to NATO. We are proud of the quality of the Canadian Armed Forces. We are disappointed and angry at the Government's failure to provide our Armed Services personnel with the equipment necessary for them to do the jobs asked of them.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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AGRICULTURE

IMPACT OF BEEF IMPORTS

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, on May 16 the federal Government was asked to impose a temporary surtax on imported European beef and to consider a countervailing duty on this heavily subsidized product in order to protect Canadian farmers and meat workers in plants across the country.

The documentation is clear, and it is beyond dispute that the subsidized imports are doing material damage to the beef industry. Yet the Government is laying unreasonable obstacles