

INDIAN AFFAIRS

SEPT ILES, QUE.—PROTECTION OF NATIVE PEOPLE IN R.C.M.P. ACTIVITIES

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development which is related to a clash last week between the native Indian people of Sept Iles, Quebec, and the R.C.M.P., provincial police, wardens and others. Will he take steps to preserve and protect the native Indian people of this area and make sure that they retain their right to hunt and fish?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, this problem arose between the Indians of Sept Iles and the provincial authorities about the administration of justice. I have asked the officials of my department for a report on this situation in order to get better acquainted with the facts.

[English]

Mr. Howard (Skeena): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since many reports indicate that these flare-ups are likely to continue and grow in future, may I ask the minister to ask his colleagues to take steps in order to preserve law and order in the area on behalf of the native people?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, the administration of justice within provincial boundaries is the responsibility of the provincial government.

[English]

COMBINES

REPORT OF ECONOMIC COUNCIL—REQUEST FOR HOUSE STATEMENT

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Has he yet received the report of the Economic Council of Canada on combines and competition. If not, and if he receives the report before parliament adjourns, will he assure the house that he will make a statement on it here?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, so far I have not received the report although I had hoped to receive it in June. The hon. member is waiting for it with just as much interest as

Inquiries of the Ministry

I am. All we can do is hope the council reports as quickly as possible. If the house is sitting when I receive the report, then naturally I will be making a statement as soon as I receive it.

Mr. Baldwin: In Vancouver, no doubt.

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS OF QUEBEC AND GABON

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I wish first of all to thank the Prime Minister for his visit to the Joliette constituency last Monday evening, when he attended a play starring the lovely Louise Marleau.

In view of the agreement signed yesterday between the government of Quebec and that of Gabon concerning a university centre for sciences and health, I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether he considers that agreement acceptable by the government?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that the question as asked can hardly be considered in order. The hon. member might wish to rephrase it.

Mr. La Salle: I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like the Prime Minister to indicate to the house whether the Quebec government was free to sign the agreement yesterday, or if it should have asked Ottawa for permission to sign it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will perhaps agree that he is asking the Prime Minister to express an opinion on a constitutional matter, and I think the question is out of order.

[English]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the honourable and learned Minister of Communications. It is in reference to the minister's announcement re the Name-the-Satellite-Contest, replete with misspellings, which indicates that he is sending posters to the 8,000 post offices still left in the country. Can he advise how he is publicizing this intriguing contest to those many thousands of Canadians who have already lost their post offices?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.