

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS**FLOODING OF HOMES THROUGH HYDRO DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In the dispute between the Indians of northern Manitoba and the Manitoba Hydro in respect of the flooding of a large number of Indian homes as a result of hydro development, is the department assisting the Indians concerned by paying for their legal and any other expenses which they may have.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I know what the problem is and the officials of my department in Manitoba do their utmost to assist the Indians who are in the unhappy situation of being unable to find some ground for understanding with the Manitoba government.

[English]

Mr. Orlikow: I should like to ask the specific question whether the department is considering paying the legal costs in respect of counsel whom the Indians have employed.

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I am unaware of this aspect of the matter but I shall inquire.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**AGENDA FOR PARIS-QUEBEC DISCUSSIONS**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. May I ask the right hon. gentleman whether he or the government have obtained an inkling as to the agenda for the Paris-Quebec talks.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Do I have the agenda?

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Have you obtained an inkling concerning what may be on the agenda for the Paris-Quebec conference?

Mr. Trudeau: The French authorities have notified us of the meetings that are to go on. In a protocol sense they have behaved compatibly with our understanding of international law. We are assuming the discussions

[Mr. Pelletier.]

will be on subjects which are covered by the agreement between France and Canada, the accord cadre, and we hope this assumption is a correct one.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): May I ask the Prime Minister whether the question of bilingualism is among the subjects that will be on the agenda and, secondly, whether the Prime Minister plans to invite a delegation from Brittany to discuss matters of mutual and cultural concern.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**WESTERN CANADA—INVESTIGATION INTO HIGH PROFITS OF GROCERY TRADE**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Is the minister in a position to reply to the request of the Consumers Association of Canada that there be a federal investigation into the alleged high profits of the grocery trade in western Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me this is a question of a general nature. Perhaps the question might be placed on the order paper. If my interpretation of the question is wrong, I would see to it that it is placed on the list of questions for consideration at the time of adjournment.

Mr. McGrath: May I point out that this request was made of the government in the last few days by the Consumers Association of Canada.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): The communication from the Consumers Association of Canada was relative to the annual report of the Director of Investigation and Research under the Combines Investigation Act. I have proposed that there be a meeting between the C.A.C. and the Director of Investigation and Research, because I think there is some misunderstanding in the C.A.C. relative to the powers, duties and functions of the Director under the Combines Investigation Act. I am also meeting this afternoon with representatives of the Consumers Association to discuss with them the white paper on price stability, which I tabled before Christmas. I am sure the subject will be pursued with them.

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): In view of the minister's indication that the Combines Investigation Act cannot be used