

*Oral Questions***NORTHERN AFFAIRS****TRADITIONAL RIGHTS OF NATIVES TO HUNT AND FISH ON CROWN LANDS**

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Last week, the Inuvialuit people of the western Arctic region were betrayed by the Government of Canada when a bill was passed and given royal assent which would abrogate their traditional trapping rights in the northern Yukon. In short, the government of the Yukon Territory, a Conservative government, has chosen to exercise its legislative authority over hunting and trapping on Crown lands in defiance of the agreement signed last year by the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement and the Government of Canada.

Is the minister aware of the passage of this bill? If he is, what does he intend to do in order to honour the agreement of the Government of Canada, in the words of the agreement itself, "recognizing Canada's constitutional jurisdiction in respect of the rights of native peoples and of native lands"?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate to the member that, yes, I am aware of the ordinance which the Yukon legislative assembly passed and which received royal assent last week. Also, I want to indicate to the member that the authority to make ordinances relating to game is under the jurisdiction of the Yukon legislative assembly.

I met with the representatives, the legal representatives, of COPE last week. I indicated to them that the government was interested in moving forward on the COPE claim. I further indicated the number of areas of concern which had been raised, not only from the communities and the two territorial governments but from other native groups, and that those questions would have to be clarified in order for negotiations to move forward. I was pleased to see, in a press release which I received this morning, that COPE also has now agreed that those questions should be answered in order that negotiations can go forward.

Mr. Penner: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. The minister talked about the jurisdictional authority of the Yukon territorial government, but he failed to answer in this House as to how he will use his constitutional authority and his obligation according to that agreement, which quite clearly indicates, "To protect and confirm the interests of the Inuvialuit on lands they have traditionally used".

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, the point the hon. member is trying to make is exactly the reason why a final agreement is needed for COPE. At the present time there is an agreement in principle. One of the areas of deep concern is the matter of lands to which the agreement and principle refer in the Yukon but to which the representatives of the people of the Yukon, namely, the government of the Yukon, were not party. Obviously that is a question, if they are prepared to have harmony in the area, which must be resolved before any final agreement can be made.

[Mr. Hnatyshyn.]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Fourth report of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs—Mr. Clarke.

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TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS ACT**MEASURE TO ESTABLISH**

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-25, to promote public safety in the transportation of dangerous goods.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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CRIMINAL CODE**REVIEW BY COMMITTEE OF FIREARMS CONTROL PROVISIONS**

On the order: Government notices of motion:

November 14, 1979—The Solicitor of General of Canada:

That the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs be authorized to review the firearms control provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada (sections 82 to 106 inclusive), and that such review extend to all aspects of the firearms control program and include the hearing and consideration of the views of the interested persons and organizations and to make recommendations with respect to any amendments, alterations or modifications thereto that appear to the committee then to be necessary or desirable;

That the committee have power to adjourn from place to place within Canada; and

That the committee be empowered to retain the services of expert advisers and to commission studies or research to assist in its work and that it also be empowered to retain such professional, technical, clerical and stenographic help as may be required.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to section 2 of Standing Order 21, this government notice of motion stands transferred to and ordered for consideration under Government Orders later this day or at the next sitting of the House.

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CANADA ELECTIONS ACT**REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF REPORT OF CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER**

On the order: Government notices of motion:

November 15, 1979—President of the Privy Council:

That the report of the Chief Electoral Officer, tabled on Friday, October 19, 1979 (Sessional Paper No. 311-1/4), be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to section 2 of Standing Order 21, this government notice of motion stands transferred to and