

ernment of British Columbia to reimpose the moratorium on logging on Lyell Island, and to keep that moratorium in effect until there has been a just and satisfactory settlement of the Haida claim.

● (1430)

Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, one of the ways I think which we have been able to allow a beginning of a process by which the confrontation goes, and sensitive and sensible negotiation discussion begins, has been to make sure that I, on behalf of the Government, would not go around telling other people what I thought they ought to do. What I have tried to do at each and every turn of the road, and I intend to continue it, is to explain to people that all Canadians want a resolution that respects the interests of all parties, and they want it in a peaceable and sensible manner. That is the approach of the Government, that is the approach I intend to take.

EXISTENCE OF ABORIGINAL TITLE

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior): The Minister should not be shy about telling the British Columbia Government what to do because he is the trustee of the Indian people in this country. The B.C. Government has asked for a clarification of the Government's native claims policy. On the basis of the report now received by the Minister, is he prepared to tell B.C. that aboriginal title does exist in that province, and that he is prepared to get negotiations under way and settle the Haida claim and the other outstanding claims as well?

Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): I am seldom shy in these matters, and I would like to take the opportunity to tell him with respect to the Haida claim, and indeed all of the claims of British Columbia, in my judgment people should approach them in an understanding that this is probably one of the most crucial events that is going to affect that province in a long, long time. Therefore, it ought not to be used in a political or partisan way. That is why I have attempted in my discussions with the Haida people, and indeed all Indian people in British Columbia, to make sure that they have the fullest possible opportunity to make their views known.

I commissioned a report as a consequence of a review of land claims, and that includes British Columbia. That will be before all Canadians for public discussion in the early part of February.

Finally, let me say, with respect to the very important questions affecting relations between the Indian people in Canada and British Columbia, and of the relations between Canada and British Columbia, those are contained in the correspondence which Minister Smith in British Columbia put out. Those are questions which I have, and also the Justice Department has, because they are matters that go to the root of an extremely important issue. I am hoping, Mr. Speaker, that all Members of this House will give it sufficient time so

Oral Questions

that we will have a solution that is going to be to the benefit of all and not just of some.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

PROVISION OF SERVICE IN NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct some questions to the Minister of Transport. He and I agreed a number of years ago that Newfoundland has never been fully in Confederation when it comes to transportation. We have had nothing but deterioration of rail, trucking, and ferry services ever since 1949. Will the Minister guarantee to the House that he will require Canadian National to provide, as an imposed public duty, equitable and efficient transportation services to the Province of Newfoundland, including the upgrading of the railway line by changing it to standard gauge track, and the improvement of the ferry services?

● (1440)

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I can give the Hon. Member the assurance that this Government is committed to providing Newfoundland with the best transportation service possible, including the utilization of all modes, and that is the sort of discussion that is going on at the present time with the provincial Government, the unions, and all interested parties.

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, just so we do not have another de Havilland operation, will the Minister assure the House that he will make it possible for the Standing Committee on Transport and for Parliament to investigate fully the transportation services in the Atlantic provinces and particularly in Newfoundland before any decision is made to sell the CN trucking services or to close down the CN Terra Transport rail operations?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, I rely upon the advice of the Transport Committee on various issues and will certainly invite its interest and comments with regard to any transportation initiatives that are taken anywhere in the country.

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[Translation]

TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. Further to the tabling of the report by the Textile