

[English]

**INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY**

**Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Yesterday we learned that not only did the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development act in bad faith toward the Inuit Tapirisat by not consulting with them about exploration on land now the subject of land claims negotiations, but also that the minister responsible was not even aware that his department had taken action. Today we learned that an official of the Canadian Wildlife Service has not prosecuted companies under environment protection regulations for fear of damaging the political sensibilities of his minister. Please, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister to take some action to ensure that his ministers and senior civil servants operate according to his government's policy and especially make sure that these two ministers smarten up.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Edmonton West.

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[Translation]

**VETERANS AFFAIRS**

TRANSFER OF HOSPITAL AT SAINTE-ANNE-DE-BELLEVUE—  
REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

Can the minister tell the House if the negotiations are still under way between his departmental officials and those responsible for the Quebec government with respect to the transfer of an hospital under Quebec jurisdiction in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue? If so, because of the representations made against that transfer by the Quebec branch of the Canadian Legion, does the minister think negotiations will be successful anyway?

[English]

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. member's question, negotiations are being carried out between our department and the department responsible in the province of Quebec. They are progressing very well. So far as the termination date is concerned it is quite difficult to tell you that because negotiations are such that sometimes they take considerable time and sometimes when one makes an announcement previous to decisions being made it does not work out too well.

● (1500)

With regard to the Legion and their input into this, they have sent resolutions to my department concerning the transfer of hospitals in Quebec, but my answer to you, Sir, is that we have a policy in the government for transferring hospitals and the reason we have the policy is that we see that in the long run it is more beneficial to veterans, because if we leave the situation as it is presently, in a few years from now we would have nothing but geriatric and nursing case patients and it would be quite impossible to hold people with proper training to look after these patients.

*Privilege—Mr. Yewchuk***NORTHERN AFFAIRS**

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF TASK FORCE  
ON PROBLEMS OF BUSINESSMEN IN NORTH OBTAINING  
CONTRACTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. A short time ago the minister indicated that his department has taken steps to implement some ten of the 42 recommendations and subrecommendations of the task force which was formed to study the problems encountered by businessmen in the north in obtaining government contracts. Can the minister advise the House whether he has taken steps to implement the remainder of the recommendations. I am wondering in particular if he has implemented the recommendation with regard to the bid bond differential.

**Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I will be meeting in Yellowknife on April 26 to discuss the outstanding recommendations on which we have not been able to reach agreement. I think there are approximately eight to which we said no and several of the recommendations as mentioned by the hon. member were accepted. On the balance we are going to have further discussions on April 26, and amongst these is the one dealing with the bid bond differential.

PERMITS FOR PIPELINES—SUGGESTED REQUIREMENT THAT  
STAGING AREAS BE CLOSE TO LARGER COMMUNITIES

**Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw):** Bearing in mind the minister's interest in the economy of the north, has he plans when considering applications for a land use permit for a pipeline, that it will be a requirement before a permit is granted that the staging areas will be either in, or in close proximity to, some of the larger communities in order that the northerners will benefit?

**Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** The representations on this have been made by the mayor of Hay River. There is a proper procedure under which NTCL makes application for permit, and that proper procedure is being followed.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[English]

**PRIVILEGE**

MR. YEWCHUK—POSITION OF MEDICAL DOCTORS WHO ARE  
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT SITTING ON HEALTH COMMITTEE

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Outstanding before the House is an alleged question of privilege by the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuk) to which a number of hon. members have contributed. I thought I might indicate to the House that unless this is inconvenient to members, I propose to bring down a ruling tomorrow.