

within a few days I hope, we will have the opportunity to go to New Brunswick where we will indicate the federal government's commitments through DREE with the New Brunswick government, which will allow for the creation of jobs and the economic development of a particular Atlantic province.

[English]

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I have every desire to see New Brunswick helped as much as possible, but my question was directed toward Nova Scotia specifically. I ask the minister whether he will take under serious advisement the setting out of funds to supply low interest, or non-interest bearing loans to create the promotion of permanent jobs to supplement the necessary temporary approach to creating jobs which we find in LIP and Canada Works?

Would the minister consider that as a policy option, and would he also consider checking to see whether the advertising campaign which seems to be run—for example, in the city of Montreal—to encourage people to take advantage of department opportunities, could also be extended to areas of just as great need, that is, in the Atlantic area?

[Translation]

Mr. Lessard: Mr. Speaker, we will consider the hon. member's suggestion.

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[English]

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR SUBMITTING OF REPORT BY DIGBY HUNT TO COMMITTEE

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the indictment of federal government practices in respect of northern development as documented in a report of the Science Council of Canada released last week, a report which questions a statement made by one Digby Hunt, then in charge of Northern Affairs programs, to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and in view of the fact that Mr. Hunt has now denied the statement that he attempted to mislead the committee, is the minister prepared to submit this report to that standing committee for consideration and, if necessary, have Mr. Hunt appear before it?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, this matter has not been brought to my attention, but I will look into it and report to the hon. member.

REPORT ON INDIAN SCHOOLS IN SASKATCHEWAN— GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It concerns the report by the Saskatchewan

Cultural College on a survey of Indian schools in that province which showed that of 60 schools, 41 have inadequate sewage systems and 18 used a jet pump which spewed raw sewage over the playgrounds. Will the minister, whose department has copies of this report, tell the House why it has taken no action to bring to an end a situation which can only be described as shameful?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I do not disagree at all with the hon. member's assessment of the conditions. In fact, at our meetings in Saskatchewan on Friday and Saturday, we had an opportunity to meet with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians and the Métis non-status people. We had some two hours of very good sessions, and these were the issues raised. I think we all resolved to go back and try to improve this situation.

There has been some improvement in recent years: I think the hon. member would agree with that. No one could be satisfied with the conditions, not only in respect of schools but in respect of health delivery services and a whole range of things on Saskatchewan reserves. Unfortunately, the problem is not confined to Saskatchewan reserves. I will be going over this problem with members of the committee when we discuss my estimates.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid the minister was probably involved in a farewell tour of western Canada with members of this administration.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Last year, an Indian boy died in a sewage lagoon, a direct result of these appalling practices. The survey also indicated that fire safety systems were well below standard in all but 10 of the 60 schools. Will the minister tell this House how his department allowed this sort of disgraceful situation to arise, and whether he will now, aside from discussing it internally, embark upon a nationwide study of the problems we are facing with regard to young Indian children which is, as I termed before, a disgraceful situation that should be given immediate priority?

Mr. Faulkner: Mr. Speaker, our assessment of our visit to Saskatchewan is quite different from that of the hon. member. I can understand that he is slightly chagrined by the warmth of the reception we received in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Faulkner: I am not sure I can associate this side of the House with the suggestion that, given a compelling human problem of this kind, the Tory response would be to conduct a nationwide study. I think what we should try to do is deal with the problem, and not conduct another study.