

How can we be sure today that there will never be across this room a government that will use these powers for that purpose?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I do not want to use these words, but I have to. What the hon. member has just said is totally dishonest!

**An hon. member:** Hear, hear!

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sure the right hon. minister knows that his reply exceeded the bounds. I would ask him to withdraw and continue his reply.

[Translation]

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Mr. Speaker, if my choice of words was unparliamentary, naturally I will follow the rules. But I must point out that the behaviour of the hon. member who is afraid to face facts and is attempting to deceive the people of Quebec, that too is inadmissible in a democracy such as ours.

\* \* \*

[English]

### INDIAN AFFAIRS

**Mr. Larry Schneider (Regina—Wascana):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Recently an historic agreement to settle outstanding land claims was reached by the federal government and the Government of Saskatchewan. Mr. Ovide Mercredi, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, was reported in the media as saying that this agreement should not be construed as a solution for other provinces.

This causes me some great concern. Is it wrong to assume that this agreement could not at least be considered a basis for future federal-provincial agreements?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Regina—Wascana has asked a very important ques-

tion about the extent of this government's commitment to honour our historic treaty obligations.

I want to tell members of the House how proud we were to be able to sign an historic treaty land entitlement agreement with the province and the premier of Saskatchewan, the Hon. Grant Devine, a week and a half ago, which will bring a doubling of the land base to some 27 treaty land entitlement bands in Saskatchewan by an additional 1.5 million acres and \$481 million toward that settlement.

This is an honourable settlement which was highly commended by the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations when he present on that occasion.

\* \* \*

### HOUSING

**Mr. Joe Fontana (London East):** Mr. Speaker, the government would have Canadians believe that the recession is over and a recovery is well under way. Well, Canadians are not buying it. In fact, the Canadian homebuilding industry does not believe it and thinks nothing is further from the truth.

Mr. Gary Reardon, president of CHBA, says that the industry is only working at 60 per cent and thousands of construction workers are still waiting for this government's recovery.

My question is to the minister responsible for housing. Will the minister finally implement the 5 per cent down payment plan for first-time homebuyers that will allow thousands to purchase their first home and thousands to return to work?

**Mr. Dave Worthy (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I think the member realizes, because he has been involved in many of the discussions we have had in this place and in others, that there are many ways that we can try to assist those people trying to get into the housing market.

Those proposals are being considered but to date there has been no decision made. We will advise the member when we do make that decision.

• (1500 )

**Mr. Joe Fontana (London East):** Mr. Speaker, this government sat on the proposal for over a year. This proposal has proven its worth in the past and it will not cost taxpayers any money.