

this House—because this institution is in trouble, just as the country is in trouble—is televising it.

If things go wrong with televising, they will change. I do not want to go into technique. I do not know what the technique will be. I presume it will be to focus on whoever happens to be speaking rather than to look around to see who in the back row is picking his nose or something like that.

An hon. Member: Disgusting.

Mr. Saltsman: I presume, Mr. Speaker, you would not permit that kind of editorializing, although I might add that I do not know of any hon. member who would do such a thing.

Mr. Broadbent: On this side of the House!

Mr. Saltsman: On this side of the House.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Saltsman: I was going to say something worse, but I could not think of anything worse at the time.

The House will change, and so it should. I know some of my hon. friends are concerned that some members are going to ham it up for television.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: They might grow a beard.

Mr. Saltsman: Some people may grow a beard in order to look more photogenic. I have met many members of parliament, and with the greatest of respect to my colleagues and to my friends, I have to say that there is not one of them who does not have a little ham in him, whether it is an editorial ham or a flare for writing or a flare for phrase making. What will change, or course, is that *Hansard* and newspaper reporting give an edge to those who can use the written word, and television will give an edge to those with blue eyes. Mr. Speaker, may I call it ten o'clock?

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

INDIAN AFFAIRS—RELOCATION OF DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES IN
HULL—CONSULTATION WITH NATIVES

Mr. Cecil Smith (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, on December 1, 1976, I asked the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Allmand) if his department was planning to move its offices from Ottawa to Hull in the near future and, if so, whether Indian people were consulted about the move. In reply the minister confirmed that the move was imminent, that it was a Treasury Board decision and that he did not think the

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plan was made in consultation with Indian people. This government preaches consultation but promotes confrontation with the Indian people. I am sure that the minister is aware of the fact that there is a strong feeling among the Indian people that the offices should remain in Ottawa.

At a meeting between the National Indian Brotherhood and the minister on November 19 he was made aware of the position of the brotherhood on the matter, the position being to have the offices remain in Ottawa. The minister promised to discuss this with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Chrétien). To date there has been no further communication with the National Indian Brotherhood about this matter.

Why is there a strong feeling about the office remaining in Ottawa? First, under 4 per cent of Indians in Canada are French speaking. Second, government has had an ongoing commitment to employ Indians within the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Given that there is more than a reasonable possibility that the department, once relocated in Quebec, will experience more pressure to have all its employees bilingual, an even greater barrier will be created for Indians who want to work for the department. There will be an even greater emphasis that Indians be trilingual in most cases. This is so, as most Indians in Canada today are already fluent in both an Indian language and English. The bilingualism program already requires a third language—French. If the department moves into Quebec, given its present atmosphere, the pressure will be even greater. Thus a system already by nature unfair to Canada's Indian population for the most part will be further intensified, resulting in even fewer Indian employees at the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and, accordingly, fewer programs and policies designed to meet the needs of the majority of Indian people.

● (2200)

Third, the government has a commitment to have continuous, ongoing dialogue with the Indian people of Canada. It is only in the last few years that Indian people have begun to come to Ottawa for talks with government. Now, at long last, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is more centralized with most of its offices located at the Centennial Tower Building at 400 Laurier Avenue, West, and at the Journal Building at 365 Laurier Avenue, West. These places have become familiar to the Indian people. I fail to understand how a move to Hull can be considered—a move that would jeopardize the kind of involvement of Indian people that the department should be promoting.

Fourth, the organizations and other departments that the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Indian people are most closely involved with are in Ottawa, and all within walking distance of each other—for example, the National Indian Brotherhood at 102 Bank Street; the Inuit Tapirisat at 222 Somerset Street, West; the Native Citizens Directorate, Secretary of State Department, at 66 Slater Street; and the Office of Native Employment, Public Service Commission, at L'Esplanade Laurier, and, of course, the loca-