

Oral Questions

expressed the wish should be put on the agenda. I will check further and I will activate matters, if they have not yet been sufficiently activated.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

RECOURSE FOR CREDITORS IN CASES OF DEFAULT

Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo-Chilcotin): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. According to one of the Minister's senior officials, Indian bands across Canada owed banks, retailers and suppliers more than \$35 million as of the end of March, 1981. This estimate was arrived at by doing band audits. However, the Department gave up on the matter because it proved to be such a large problem. It now estimates that the total amount is probably in the neighbourhood of \$100 million. What recourse does a creditor have when an Indian band defaults on the payment of a loan or a debt? What responsibility does the Minister have to these creditors?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, that is very largely a legal question, but let me indicate that I think many suppliers in communities near Indian reserves are aware of the limited liability of the Indian people with respect to reserve lands. They choose to make those supplies, knowing the degree of limited liability with respect to others. They have to accept a certain amount of responsibility for the fact that they are prepared to extend the credit under those circumstances.

If the Hon. Member is suggesting that somehow the Minister should intervene and tell Indians where and how they can buy, it certainly runs counter to any suggestion from the Hon. Member or the Opposition Party with respect to ending the dependency and paternalism regarding Indian people which they allege so often in the House.

Mr. Greenaway: That is not what I had in mind. I had in mind to tell the Minister that his officials are telling us that a serious credibility problem is building up because of this. Many suppliers, banks and retailers think the Department has some part to play in this, and that is why I wanted to raise the matter on the floor of the House today.

INVESTIGATION REQUESTED

Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo-Chilcotin): Madam Speaker, will the Minister order an investigation into the problem, and will he report the findings of such an investigation to the House?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, in each case where this occurs, where band councils expend money for purposes other than the ones indicated when they sign contribution agreements with the Department, we go in, we intervene, we

send in auditors to assess the situation and to apply what corrective measures we can. We will continue to do that, but I just want to indicate that the Hon. Member is ill-disguising what he is suggesting. I take it that he is suggesting a greater degree of interference by the Department, and that is not consistent with policies enunciated by his Party.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

RECRUITMENT OF LIBERAL PARTY MEMBERS

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Do the Prime Minister and the Government approve of a political party using a citizenship court judge as a tool for recruiting new members to that party?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The question is hypothetical, Madam Speaker, in its very form.

Mr. McDermid: Maybe I could show the Prime Minister that it is not hypothetical.

MULTICULTURAL RECRUITMENT MANUAL

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Madam Speaker, could the Prime Minister explain why the multicultural recruitment manual of the Liberal Party of Canada, written by the Minister of State for Multiculturalism, suggests under the chapter entitled, "New Activities for Recruitment", that a meeting be called by a Liberal riding association under the guise of a citizenship class involving a citizenship judge, and that this meeting be used to recruit new members to the Liberal Party? Does he support this flagrant misuse of citizenship court judges?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I would have to take cognizance of the document itself. If the Hon. Member would be patient, I will look into it.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

TESTING OF CRUISE MISSILE—CANADA-UNITED STATES AGREEMENT

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Recently the Secretary of State for External Affairs said that the umbrella agreement between the United States and Canada had been concluded, or tentatively agreed upon. In the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, could the Prime Minister tell us what are the details of the umbrella agreement, including the Cruise missile, if any, and when he expects the final signing of the agreement?