

Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on October 30 to the three national native organizations.

In that letter the Prime Minister confirmed that there will be no changes in the constitution directly affecting the native peoples without full discussion with them. The Prime Minister expressed the government's desire to discuss with native groups those matters of special concern to them—aboriginal rights, treaty rights and internal native self-government. He also indicated that there will be a good deal of preparatory work required and that there will be a number of meetings between senior officials and native groups.

On at least ten occasions in the past three or four weeks I have heard in this House, and I wish to affirm again, that each of the three groups has been given approximately \$400,000, totalling over \$1 million, to prepare its case. The Prime Minister has publicly pledged that this will be the first subject at the next first ministers' conference or a priority subject of the federal government.

Naturally, as the hon. member knows, the government has agreed to consultations with the provinces which also have an interest in the matter. I wish to point to the proposed constitution and section 24 which, I am aware, is a reverse declaration

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and which clearly states that none of the rights of native peoples will be taken away by reason of the constitution. If my good friend wishes to make some proposals, they should be made in the constitutional committee. What wording would he like to see in section 24? What does he want to do in connection with specific problems which can be handled by the government? Does the hon. member have a position on the problem on Vancouver Island or on the Micmac claim in Newfoundland? Does the hon. member have a position on the four claims in the Northwest Territories or on the one claim in northern Ontario or on the three claims in Quebec?

When the hon. member says we are not treating the problem seriously, I suggest that he is showing concern but offering no solutions. We must sit down and look at individual solutions which have been put forth. Solutions should be put forward, not the same questions day after day. The government takes the problem seriously and is trying to solve it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until eleven o'clock tomorrow morning.

At 10.29 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.

END OF VOLUME IV