

Order Paper Questions

process. We have the full co-operation of the native groups across Canada. That process will take place.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): It is not myself that is trying to convince the native people about the sham of this process. They, themselves, have asserted this through their various organizations.

I turn to the Minister of Indian Affairs. In that same briefing note that I referred to earlier, the Minister reveals that the amalgamation of native economic programs is to go forward almost immediately. Last Friday the native leadership described the Minister as being untrustworthy for not advising them of this new scheme. Why is the Minister proceeding with this approach without taking into his confidence and trust the native leadership of the country?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the Hon. Member is aware of the Task Force on Economic Development from DIAND and I am sure he is also aware of the recommendations that were put forward. I wish to refer to one of them.

One was the single agency concept proposed by the Ontario Indian Advisory Board in February, 1985. In June, 1987, an AFN National Assembly resolution contained the following assessment, that "federal initiatives to date have further entangled the First Nations in a complex web . . . short-sightedness and jurisdictional disputes—federal Departments responsible for supporting First Nations' economic development are unable to effectively co-ordinate their activities."

I assume, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is referring to a briefing note prepared for myself. I have not seen it, and I do not know what he is talking about. I can tell the Hon. Member that, along with my colleague and other colleagues, we have to address the desires and needs of the Indian people in economic development. That is exactly what the Government is going to do.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to advise the House that there will be one more question.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the House on Justice and Solicitor General. Regardless of where they stand on the question of capital punishment, all Canadians are interested in seeing immediate reform of our criminal justice system, and in particular reform of sentencing and parole. The Chairman has indicated that his committee will be studying these issues and making a recommendation.

In the light of the concerns that have been expressed in the House and across the country in the capital punishment debate, and in the light of the comments of the Hon. Minister of Justice that Canadians have lost faith in our criminal justice system, will the Chairman give the House his undertaking to commence those hearings and that study immediately?

• (1530)

Mr. David Daubney (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question and his interest in this important area, as he says, an interest which is increasingly shared by many Canadians.

Last month I wrote to hundreds of individuals and groups active in the criminal justice field. I invited them to submit briefs to our committee by the end of September.

Certainly if it becomes apparent that the House will be sitting for some weeks this summer, I intend to call a meeting of the committee soon in order that we can start the important work which the committee has before it.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the permission of the House to revert to Routine Proceedings and Questions on the Order Paper.

At the time this matter was called earlier today my documentation was not complete. I appreciate that the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) was upset in that he waited around for the answer and I was not able to deliver it. However, as I undertook to do, I am prepared to answer the questions now if the House would give its consent to revert to Routine Proceedings.

Mr. Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 148, 150, 152, 154, and 155.

[Text]

IMPACT OF PESTICIDES ON ENVIRONMENT

Question No. 148—**Mr. Caccia:**

1. For the fiscal year 1986-87, were funds allocated to assess the impact of pesticides on the environment in the budget of the Department of the Environment and, if so, in what amount?

2. For the fiscal year 1987-88, was the budget increased and, if so (a) by what amount (b) in what manner will it be spent and, in particular, will the number of person years be increased and what are the specific positions,