

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

and I am not therefore sure if it would be conducive to much more work in the other committees if we were to set up a committee on the constitution. As I have said, at this stage of the game there seems to be a great deal of indecision in the constitutional theories of some of the members of the house.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker: In coming to a decision on this would not the Prime Minister bear in mind that the issues need to be made simple and precise, free from the power conflicts and struggles between the federal and the provincial governments, that the right hon. gentleman and his colleagues have failed dismally to do this, and that a parliamentary committee could not make a worse mess than the government?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I suggest to the hon. member that the question he is asking is quite out of order.

**OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING****SCHEFFERVILLE, QUE.—DELAYS IN PROGRAM FOR CHIMO INDIANS**

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. I tried to give him notice of it a little while ago but was unable to reach him. Is he aware of the delays which have taken place in approving some adult educational programs for Chimo Indians in Schefferville, Quebec, resulting in a loss of pay for the trainees and, if so, what action is the minister taking to remedy the situation?

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I am familiar with this particular case. It is one where the department, under the regulations, is not able to approve training allowances because the courses had commenced before the proper authorization had been received, as required under the regulations.

**Mr. Lewis:** Would the minister undertake to look into the situation and to see whether the regulations could be made to apply, as I understand they could, so that the trainees would be paid for a full period of 16 weeks instead of a shorter period?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to look at the case again, but from what study I have made of it I have discovered that the regulations have been applied in the proper way.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, as a further supplementary question may I ask the minister whether it is the policy of his department that any educational up-grading should not go beyond the eighth grade, in the case I am now referring to affecting the Chimo Indians in Schefferville? I am informed that this has been the case.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to investigate that particular point.

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** As a supplementary question, do I understand the minister's answer to be that the trainees are not receiving pay because the school course was started without proper authorization?

**Mr. MacEachen:** That is the answer.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Then I would ask the minister whether the instructors are a volunteer staff, or are receiving their pay?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, the staff as such is not in the employ of the Department of Manpower and Immigration. In the normal case the department purchases these courses from the provincial departments of education, and in some cases from private organizations. In this case the courses had commenced before the necessary authorization had been given by the provincial department of education. As to the status of the teachers involved, it is not in issue at this point. It is a question of training allowances for those persons who had been in the courses before they were authorized.

**Mr. Lewis:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister would not wish to mislead the house. He said the course had been started before the department of education had approved of it. Would he be good enough to look into that, because my information is that the department of education approved of it last November, and that any of the difficulties that arose—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest that this is not a point of order, but rather that it is a point of debate between hon. members.

**Mr. Lewis:** With respect, Mr. Speaker, I did rise on a point of order to make sure the minister was not saying something in answer to a question which I am quite certain was wrong.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is still not a point of order.