

Oral Questions

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): I asked whether the land use permit issued to Cominco at Wrigley in March, which is the area that started this whole question of the restraining order, was issued in consultation with the native people in the area?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, as a rule, my department never fails to consult the Indian and Eskimo communities when there are developments and in this particular case, I shall inquire and report to the hon. member. Our policy has been always to consult the communities involved.

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[English]

VETERANS AFFAIRS

REPORT OF JOINT STUDY GROUP ON BASIC RATE OF
DISABILITY PENSION—INQUIRY AS TO
IMPLEMENTATION BEFORE EASTER

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs and it relates to the report of the joint study group on the basic rate of the war disability pension, which was endorsed unanimously by the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs. Can the minister say when the bill implementing this recommendation will be placed before parliament?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this report has received some study by the government and it is coming back again on April 16. We planned on getting it there before that, but due to other matters that needed to be taken care of previous to that time we were not able to do so. As I say, it will be before the government again on April 16, and if I have the permission of the government I hope progress will be made on the report and that we will be able to proceed with the enactment of legislation.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the likelihood that such a bill would receive quick passage by the House, will the minister make every effort to get it to us before Easter?

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will make every effort to do that.

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GRAIN

WHEAT—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE SUPPLIES
SUFFICIENT TO MEET DOMESTIC AND EXPORT
REQUIREMENTS

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the fact that a recent news release from the International Wheat Council indicates that wheat supplies throughout the world are becoming scarce, and in view of

[Mr. Chrétien.]

the fact that the United States and the Argentine are restricting exports of wheat, would the minister assure the House that Canada has sufficient supplies on hand to meet its export commitments and still retain a reasonable reserve for domestic purposes in the event of a reduced wheat crop in Canada this year?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the House easily about the availability of supplies to meet our export commitments. Indeed, I can tell the House that the Canadian Wheat Board is very carefully assessing not only our own future needs but the regular supplies which our very good customers count on receiving from us, and are planning their sales accordingly. The Canadian Wheat Board is continuing to make forward sales of wheat in view of the supplies we have on hand.

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• (1510)

[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

PRESENTATION OF MEASURE RESPECTING
BILINGUALISM

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

On March 14 last, I put to him a question concerning the official languages and, on that occasion, the Prime Minister answered that he expected to be putting something on the order paper within two weeks at the latest, that would provide the House with information.

Is the Prime Minister in a position to say when he will enlighten the House on the nature of that something?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will indeed see that it is something when it comes.

As concerns the date, I apologize to him and to the House for having been too optimistic about that date. I hope it is soon, but it will definitely not be within a few days.

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[English]

INCOME TAX

LAND VALUATIONS—POSSIBILITY OF APPEAL

Mr. Dan Hollands (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue concerning the land evaluation taking place in Canada for tax purposes. Will he inform the House whether the property owners whose properties have been appraised for tax purposes have been notified and, if so, is there an appeal procedure to handle these evaluations?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, the valuations that are taking place are for the purpose of future reference. They do not necessarily have any status in law at this point. Valuations from any source can be considered. This information is being gath-