

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Is the Prime Minister saying that he retracts his statement in *The New York Times*? Which version is right—his letter and the version given to us by the former Minister of Fisheries, or what he said in *The New York Times*?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am saying that there is no inconsistency at all in what has been said. Indeed there was a grave inconsistency, a very serious inconsistency, with regard to a resignation which involved the Leader of the Opposition and then Prime Minister Trudeau, and Prime Minister Trudeau indicated that the version given by the Leader of the Opposition was incorrect.

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**CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

## EXPENDITURES UNDERTAKEN BY RADIO STATION

**Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Communications my question is directed to his Parliamentary Secretary. The residents of the riding of Timiskaming were very annoyed to learn earlier this week that the CBC radio station in the North had spent an estimated \$50,000 on TVs, VCRs, tape recorders and cassettes, after guidelines were indicated by the President of the Treasury Board and after the Vice-President of the CBC indicated that stations should keep within the spending guidelines. Could the Parliamentary Secretary advise my residents and many people across the country why such spending is still allowed?

**Mr. Jim Edwards (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, as my hon. colleague well knows, the CBC is a Crown corporation at arms length. However, the suggestion is a very serious one. I will undertake to ask the Minister to convey this information to the President of the CBC on Mr. Juneau's return from the Peoples Republic of China.

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**INDIAN AFFAIRS**

## FUNDING OF NORTHERN ONTARIO BANDS

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development who recently made the time to meet with seven chiefs of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation to discuss funding for the recently created bands in northwestern Ontario. Is the Minister prepared to state before the House his full support in doing everything possible to expedite approval of funding to meet the requirements of those bands?

**Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member may know that when I met yesterday with Grand Chief Cromarty and the other seven chiefs, I indicated that I would support their efforts. I will be engaged in discussions and consultations over the next number of weeks, and I am hopeful that we will reach a satisfactory conclusion.

## MINISTERIAL ACTION

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, of course the Minister is aware that if these funds are not approved in time for the very limited construction season, there may well be hundreds of people living in tents come the fall. Therefore I ask for the Minister's commitment to bring this matter before the Social Development Committee of Cabinet within the next two weeks.

**Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I assure the Hon. Member that I am aware of the tight time frame, given the geography and the climate. As the Hon. Member may well know, we have just received the application from the region. We will have to go through the process at all possible speed, and I will do it as soon as I can.

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**FIREARMS**

## IMPORTATION TO CANADA

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Given his stated concerns this morning about increasing terrorism, and given recent moves in the United States to relax its gun control laws, could he tell us why, in his Government's Budget, he made it cheaper to import rifles and shotguns into Canada?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, this had to do with a Tariff Board ruling on sportsmen's rifles. It was a regulatory change which was made before, and this was brought into line with other regulations.

## GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Is he not concerned about the kind of signal which this sends out? On the one hand he is expressing concern about increasing terrorism. On the other hand his Government is making it cheaper to bring high-powered shotguns and rifles into the country. Does he not think this sends out a mixed message to Canadians?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is a little unfair to deal with Canadian sportsmen in the same breath as dealing with terrorism.