

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF COMPETITION BILL

Mr. Ron Atkey (St. Paul's): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs I wish to put my question to the government House leader. Can he tell the House whether the government plans before the summer recess to introduce the reworked version of the competition bill to which the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has referred on several occasions in the House?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, that is a rather distant ideal at the moment.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

ENTITLEMENT TO DRUGS—DIRECTIVE LIMITING PROVISION—PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH MINISTER

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to the one asked by the hon. member for Mackenzie. I wish to ask the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development whether he was consulted in connection with this matter before the Department of National Health and Welfare took action which is in direct contradiction and contravention of the treaty rights of these Indians?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I must say that I have not been informed of it, but I had the opportunity to discuss this problem this week with the Indian Association of Saskatchewan. I already made representations to the Minister of National Health and Welfare on this matter and he assured me that he was considering the problem and that he would be in a position to report to both the House and myself early next week.

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: As the minister is the custodian of the rights of the Indians under the treaties, did he point out that what was done was in direct violation of the rights of the Indians and that it should be immediately set aside and countermanded, and if he did have a chat with the Minister of National Health and Welfare as he has just stated, when was it that he gave his views?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I was informed of this problem long before the right hon. member raised the question in this House and as soon as I had a chance to do so, I met with the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Yesterday I discussed the matter with him and he is now considering the issue. I think that everything to be done will be done in due course.

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the minister cannot brush aside the rights of the Indians in that cavalier manner.

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Question!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I ask the minister: did he protest against the wrong that is being done to these Indians by this bureaucratic order that is totally unjust?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, unlike the right hon. member, I examine all the facts before protesting and as soon as the Saskatchewan Indians asked to meet with me, I was pleased to receive them. I made representations to the Minister of National Health and Welfare before the right hon. member himself became aware of the situation.

● (1150)

[English]

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that a short time ago in the House the Minister of National Health and Welfare presented a program of increased family allowances and social services to the people of Canada, may I ask if this new ruling in respect of the native people of Saskatchewan indicates a reversal of that policy on the part of the government?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

ENERGY

PROPOSED JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT—CABINET COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT OF ANALYSIS—COMMUNICATION OF POSITION TO QUEBEC

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I wished to direct my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in his capacity as chairman of the cabinet committee co-ordinating federal activities relating to the James Bay project but in his absence I would direct it to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development who I presume is still a member of that committee. Can the minister tell the House whether the committee has examined the recently presented analysis which shows, first, an over-exaggeration by the James Bay Corporation of Quebec's power needs and, second, the advantages of nuclear rather than hydraulic power, and has the federal committee's assessment been conveyed to the province of Quebec?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, this question of resource development in the James Bay area is still under consideration by the government; all the elements of the case are being continuously considered. This is one of the elements of the case now under consideration and consultations take place quite regularly with the Quebec government. As regards the number of kilowatts and the cost, etc., this comes under the jurisdiction of my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and I shall bring to his attention the question asked by the hon. member.