

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

ROLE OF INUIT IN ESTABLISHING CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs regarding Canada's new policies on Arctic sovereignty. The Minister yesterday laid claim directly through the Inuit to Arctic sovereignty since they have been there, to use the Minister's own words, since time immemorial on the lands and ice of the Arctic archipelago.

Since the Inuit and aboriginal presence is vital to Canadian sovereignty, is the Government now serious about settling matters of aboriginal title in non-treaty areas of Canada?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if I may depart very briefly from normal parliamentary custom, I would simply like to express my appreciation of the spirit in which the Hon. Member responded yesterday to the statement.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): The answer to the Hon. Member's question, as my colleague, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs will confirm, is, yes.

SUBMARINE RIGHTS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, let me pay tribute to the Minister also. I think some very important moves on behalf of our country were made by the Minister yesterday.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fulton: I will not go any further, Mr. Speaker.

On the new policy of Arctic sovereignty, the Minister was silent on a number of other vital matters related to securing sovereign title firmly in international law. Is he now going to order through the Canada Oil and Gas and Lands Act claim to the geographical maximum to submarine rights to all Canada's maritime boundaries, including the 141st meridian between Yukon and Alaska?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, what I am going to do, and the thought occurred to me yesterday, is add the Hon. Member for Skeena to the list of people whom I consult closely on this question.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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PORNOGRAPHY

REQUEST FOR STRONGER LAWS

Mr. Jim Jepson (London East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. I applaud the Minister for having recently brought before this House progressive legislation to crack down on the problem of prostitution in our cities. In

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light of this initiative, can the Minister give us any indication of when he might, in an equally firm manner, bring forth measures that will strengthen our laws against pornography, especially that with violence and exploitive content?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for his thanking me.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: It is not too often one gets thanked in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: If the Pied Piper arrived on the scene in Ottawa, we would have no Opposition left.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An Hon. Member: He has been waiting all summer for that one.

Mr. Crosbie: These issues, as the Hon. Member knows, are very complicated. We are now discussing with the provinces and other very interested groups what our package should be. I hope we will have a package of legislation by Christmas, and if not, certainly shortly thereafter.

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT AID TO FAMILIES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister.

In the Prime Minister's first Throne Speech on November 5 last year, it says under the heading Social Justice in the paragraph on families with children, and I quote:

My Government has as a high priority measures to support and strengthen the Canadian family—

Could the Prime Minister inform our 3.5 million families in Canada that the message was that there would be a 3 per cent cut in the indexation of family allowance, a 3 per cent cut in the child tax credit, a \$55 million cut in the benefit program for these families?

[English]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Hon. Member has recognized the importance that both the Government and Canadian society place on the family unit. I think many of us in this House and in society generally feel that that concept had to be strengthened, that there were certain trends in society that were possibly reducing the importance of the family. This