

Oral Questions

Mr. De Bané: We are to manage the resources in the most responsible fashion possible, and I try to have input from every user group, every participating group.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

FUNDING OF TRIBAL COUNCILS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I am sure the Minister is aware of the memo released earlier this month which was approved by the Prime Minister, recommending that the Liberal strategy be to "reduce native expectation, particularly as it relates to the Constitutional conference". Examples of this policy abound, ranging from the termination of the megaproject impact fund to the termination of the \$345 million for Canadian economic development.

With the Constitutional conference just a month from today, I wonder if the Minister would explain why yesterday, at the parliamentary hearings into Indian self-government, evidence was brought forth that the Minister plans and fully intends to reduce, if not eliminate, funds to tribal councils. Would he explain why he is doing that at this time? Would he also explain the policy of the Government concerning the Constitutional conference? Is it completely to undermine it, and the confidence of native people in this country, before it happens?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, the answer is no to both questions. There is no intention to obliterate funding for tribal councils. As the Hon. Member should know, having spoken with some of the Indian leadership, and certainly the head of the AFN, we are adopting a positive attitude toward the Constitutional conference and, in fact, Indian leaders who were present at the ministerial conference have stated so publicly. Maybe the Hon. Member has chosen to ignore those statements.

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CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

IDENTIFICATION OF DIRECTORS

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is supplementary to the question directed by the Hon. Member for St. John's East to the Minister of Public Works. Can he confirm to the House that among those Members of the Board of Directors of CMHC who have come in for this Liberal largesse, based on the new Liberal math, in which 6 per cent and 5 per cent equal 200 per cent, are included Frank J. Callaghan, President of the Liberal Association of Prince Edward Island; Sylvia Sutherland, a defeated Liberal candidate in Peterborough during the 1980 election; Christine

McKee from the University of Manitoba, ombudswoman and associate of the Minister of Employment and Immigration when he taught in Winnipeg; and, rounding out the list, Jacques Plante, President of the Quebec City Chamber of Commerce, and Ben Wosk, a furniture dealer in Vancouver, prominent contributors to the Liberal Party of Canada? Are those the recipients of the Liberal largesse, a 200 per cent increase, despite the Government's six and five program which the Cabinet stated on repeated occasions would be applicable to all Crown corporations and agencies?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I again underline the fact that the submission was on April 28, 1982, which was before the six and five program was initiated.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. LeBlanc: Madam Speaker, I have sufficient respect for people who support the other side not to think that just being Members of that Party or contributing to it—although I question the wisdom of that—should disqualify such people. I have met the members of the board and I know that they are very hard working. I know that they are devoted to working for housing. I make no apologies for that fact.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: An interpretation of that answer is a confirmation that all of the five individuals named by me are devoted Members of the Liberal Party of Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Does that exclude them?

Mr. Nielsen: No, it certainly does not exclude them, but I suggest to Hon. Members opposite that the trough is getting pretty full.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

TRAVELLING EXPENSES

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, does this same Liberal approach—

Mr. Crosbie: Headed by "Oinker" Macdonald.

Mr. Nielsen: —attempt to justify expenses of \$250 for travelling three hours or less, and \$450 for three hours or more? Is that a fringe benefit to the new math of the Liberal Party?

● (1500)

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, as I said before, the salaries of the members of the board had not been increased since 1946. The Hon. Member, the Acting Leader of the Opposition, has seen more increases in his last 37 years. What the Hon. Member forgets to point out in his long question is that, in their own right, members of this board are qualified Canadians and, frankly, I do not see