

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Favreau: The answer I gave shows, Mr. Speaker, that the considerations which motivated the decision were purely objective. In answer to the last question, I must say that I am looking into this whole question myself.

[Later:]

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Justice relating to the proposed narcotic treatment centre at Matsqui. I wish to ask the minister whether any plans are in existence respecting the manner in which that institution will be operated, and what rehabilitative or treatment programs will be used there?

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Speaker, may I take that question as notice?

[Later:]

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. I do so because I think it is required and because of what I consider unfair questions directed to him today. I would like to ask the minister whether he will inform the house that he is not so much concerned in what location new, modern, up to date provision is made for a women's prison, as he is to remove them from the deplorable, iniquitous conditions under which they are incarcerated in the Kingston penitentiary.

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman for his sympathy with me, and I must say that I agree on many of the points that he has raised.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

QUEBEC—ADMINISTRATION OF ESKIMO AFFAIRS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have a question for the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, which is necessary because after reading *Hansard* for yesterday I see that he and I did not have a meeting of minds on the question I asked. Can the minister assure the house succinctly that on grounds of propriety as well as of the law involved, any agreement covering the transfer of responsibility for the Eskimos in northern Quebec will be made only by parliament as distinguished from the government of Canada?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): I am quite certain that this is a matter which could more properly be answered by the Minister of Justice. It relates to the legal position in the

light of the 1939 Supreme Court of Canada decision. I would much prefer that he deal with the matter.

Mr. Baldwin: I am glad to put the question to the Minister of Justice, because when I asked him this question last session he said he could not answer it because he was not the minister of justice. Since he is now the Minister of Justice, perhaps he might answer it.

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, could the question be repeated for my benefit?

Mr. Baldwin: The operative part of the question, Mr. Speaker, was, on grounds of propriety as well as of law involved will the minister assure the house that any pending agreement involving the transfer of responsibility in respect of Eskimos in northern Quebec will be made only by the parliament of Canada, as distinguished from the government?

Mr. Favreau: May I take that question as notice?

[Translation]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Justice.

Considering that Mr. Levesque has turned down the idea of a referendum concerning the transfer of jurisdiction over Eskimo affairs, does the government intend to give in to Mr. Levesque and find another solution?

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Speaker, I must say that after five o'clock when the talks were adjourned, not forever but because the participants were physically exhausted, the main question that remained to be settled was the extent to which the Eskimo people should be consulted.

If the federal government is to transfer the administration of Eskimo affairs, it absolutely insists—because this is part of the whole system of the administration of Indian affairs—that the persons concerned be consulted on the conditions of this transfer.

The point on which we did not entirely agree—but I think that we will come to an agreement tomorrow in Quebec city—is precisely the nature, the procedure and the scope of this consultation of the Eskimos which we deem essential.

Mr. Pigeon: I should like to ask a supplementary question. Is it true, as reported in the press, that the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources and Mr. Rene Levesque quarrelled?

Mr. Favreau: The Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources was remarkably cool during that conference.