

HERE AND THERE - Cont'd.....

CHRETIEN REMOVES STEEL WALL

Ottawa (CP) - The steel security wall at the entrance of the Indian Affairs headquarters, built to prevent further sit-ins by Indians, has been torn down, Indian Affairs Minister, Jean Chretien reported to the Commons, Monday, December 3rd.

Outside the Commons Mr. Chretien said the wall was torn down "because it didn't do the job we wanted it to do."

He said that insurance companies had complained of the hazard to employees created by the glass doors which the steel wall replaced.

Flora McDonald (PC Kingston and The Islands got chuckles from all corners of the House when she asked the Minister if he was going to rename the headquarters Fort Chretien.

Mr. Chretien said that tighter security was still in effect in the building. Extra guards hired following the August 28 sit-in by a native group would remain on duty.

During the August sit-in confidential papers dealing with native rights, James Bay and other sensitive subjects were stolen from the building.

Indian leaders said the wall was built to keep Indians out of the building.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS WILL FINANCE MEETINGS

Toronto - Monday, Nov. 26th - The federal Indian Affairs Dept. will finance meetings where Indian women can discuss their rights, a week-end meeting of Indian women from the western provinces and Ontario was told.

Kitty Maracle of Vancouver said she had talked to Katie Cooke, head of the National advisory council on the status of women, who said, "she and Labor Minister John Munro and two of her executives met with Jean Chretien (Minister of Indian Affairs) and he told them money would be made available for meetings of native women".

The B.C. Indian women's committee already has asked the secretary of state for half the \$60,000 it has estimated it will need for its project and will approach the Indian women in the other

provinces to do what they are doing in B.C.

Once they get the money they will hire three field workers to visit the various groups of Indians. They will hold meetings with the Native women and acquaint them with their status as laid out in the Indian Act.

Each of the groups of women will be encouraged to choose a delegate to represent them at a big meeting of all the Indian women in the province planned for this spring.

Mrs. Maracle said in an interview that many native women who still have their status are looking at the situation exactly as the non-status women.

"They are asking themselves if they have to teach their daughters to marry Indians. Many a young Indian girl nowadays prefers to live common-law; she will not go through a marriage ceremony because she knows if she does she will lose her status."

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NDP WANTS INDIAN, EX-CON MEMBERS ON PAROLE BOARD

Ottawa - A New Democratic party bid for Indian and ex-convict representation on an expanded parole board was branded discriminatory by other parties in Commons debate on Monday, December 3, 1973.

Frank Howard (NDP) argued that adding two Indians and two former prisoners would give the board needed representation and experience, but members of the other parties said it would create a bad precedent.

He said Indian representation is necessary because of a disproportionately high number of Indians in prison.

Mr. Howard said 25 to 30% of the federal prison population in Western Canada consists of Indians. In some provincial jails, the level reached 75 to 80%.

Despite their numbers, native people do not get equitable consideration when they apply for parole, he said.

Wally Firth (NDP), a Metis, termed the large number of native people in penal institutions "a deplorable situation as far as I'm concerned." Before the white man arrived, native people had a good rehabilitation system for law-breakers, a system without locks or