

Inquiries of the Ministry

helpful for me to comment further, beyond what I said last week. As a matter of fact even what I said then caused some misunderstanding in the area. I can only reassure my hon. friend that we are making every possible effort to see that the commitment that was made is honoured.

Mr. Sherman: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I ask the minister whether he will consider convening at the earliest possible date a meeting of the joint federal-provincial committee that is riding herd on this problem.

Mr. Hellyer: I think there will be a meeting in the not too distant future.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, in view of the statement of the Minister of Transport that he has up to date information on the problems at the international airport at Winnipeg, would he answer before the end of the month the two questions I have on the order paper, because the problems set out there have been before him now for several months? I know he is diverted by other activities these days.

Mr. Hellyer: It certainly sounds like a reasonable request, Mr. Speaker.

INDIAN AFFAIRS**INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENTS TO ACT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Would the minister bring in for first reading a bill setting out the government's proposals for amendments to the Indian Act at this session, so the Indian people might have the opportunity of studying the government's proposals between now and the time of proceeding further with the bill at the next session?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): That would be quite impossible, Mr. Speaker, because the fundamental basis of the changes is being discussed with the Indian people over a period of two and one half months beginning about March 1, before the bill is printed. I hope then to have the bill printed and presented to parliament, and it will then have to be again discussed with the Indians after printing.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Would the minister be prepared to make available a schedule of the times and places of these meetings to which he referred, and those who will be participating in this examination prior to the introduction of the bill?

Mr. Laing: I think that would be fair enough, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister also, following the precedent set by himself and his colleague the Solicitor General, distribute to members of parliament the discussion draft which will be distributed to the Indian people and will form the basis of these discussions?

Mr. Laing: This would also appear to be reasonable, Mr. Speaker.

FINANCE**EFFECT OF INCREASE IN BANK INTEREST RATE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Could the minister advise the house whether the increase in the bank rates from 6 per cent to 7 per cent has attracted any appreciable flow of funds into Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think this question is much too wide in scope to be asked at this time. The hon. member is asking for information which in my view should be given by the minister by way of a statement on motions.

INDUSTRY**POSSIBLE CHANGE IN CRITERIA RESPECTING DESIGNATED AREAS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and ask him whether any steps are being taken to alter the rules under the designated area program of his department in order to take into account the factor of seasonableness of industry in one-industry areas.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, at the outset of the program unemployment was related to seasonality.