

Point of Order

In that same report it states that the unsafe conditions that from time to time develop to the point where there is a real risk of collision are cause for continuing concern. Will the minister forgo the 90 day clause in studying these 48 recommendations that CASB has introduced and has said needed the minister's immediate attention? Will the minister implement them as his predecessor implemented very good recommendations made by CASB during his term as Minister of Transport?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I would encourage my hon. friend, who I know is quite serious in his question, not to confuse the 90-day period within which we have to report to the House with the time frame for taking action. Action has been taken on several of those recommendations. We think they were helpful recommendations and we are working to improve safety in the air. I maintain, I repeat, and I assure my friend that the skies are safe.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The minister will know that the March 31 deadline for the Dene-Métis claims has come and gone. The Dene-Métis chief negotiator was clearly prepared to initial the deal, with the full knowledge that a majority of the Dene-Métis support this claim. However, when the time came, Mr. David Osborne, the federal negotiator refused to have the agreement initialled. Will the minister explain why the federal negotiator has taken this decision after pushing 20 some odd years for completion of this claim?

• (1500)

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for the Western Arctic for her question. I want to tell all members of the House how proud we are that the Council of Yukon Indians early yesterday morning was able to conclude an historic agreement, a piece of unfinished business of some 120 years duration.

I think some members of this House can take some pride and some credit for the contribution they made toward this successful outcome. It is a model for the conclusion we seek with all native communities of Canada and in particular the Dene Métis of the western Arctic.

In regard to the specific question of the hon. member, I will be meeting our negotiator later today. I have already undertaken to meet the executive of the Dene Métis. I can tell members of this House that after nine hours over the deadline and having come to a point of hopefully being able to initial some of the substantive elements of the agreement, at that point, at 9 a.m. yesterday morning, a group among the leaders of the Dene Métis said they could not support this agreement. As a result the agreement would not give the certainty that all parties need to ensure final agreement. It was on that basis that our negotiator decided to our great disappointment that this agreement could not be concluded.

Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, given that it is unlikely that such a deal will ever be able to be renegotiated by the Dene Métis if this claim is taken off the table, will the minister assure the House and the people of the Northwest Territories that this government will not take the Dene Métis claim off the table at least until the Dene Métis have had an opportunity to review, and perhaps approve and initial this agreement at an upcoming Dene Métis joint assembly.

I appeal on behalf of the Dene Métis for another opportunity. Let's not waste the \$38 million investment on negotiations to date and an opportunity to do the right thing.

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I know that the hon. member for the Western Arctic, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Dene Métis people, and indeed, all of the people of Canada would want to see this important accord reached. I am sure the hon. member does not want to be pessimistic. I know that she shares the hope that we will successfully find a way to conclude this agreement. Until I am debriefed by the negotiator and have had a chance to discuss these matters further with my colleagues, I cannot make any undertakings as to where this matter might lead.

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POINT OF ORDER**MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE—SPEAKER'S RULING**

Mr. Speaker: On March 30, 1990 the hon. member for Kamloops rose on a point of order to express his concern about the procedural acceptability of the finance com-