

with the Province of New Brunswick. However, the Province of New Brunswick has not yet had the opportunity of having formal negotiations on that subject, although the regional Minister and I did meet with the Premier and his officials sometime before Christmas, as I recall, in a preliminary way to discuss the timetable for such negotiations.

URGENCY OF SECURING AGREEMENT WITH NEW BRUNSWICK—
MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Madam Speaker, I thank the Minister for his answer. The Minister will appreciate the obvious advantage of common development goals between the federal Government and the provincial Governments. Will the Minister tell the House what, if any, joint federal-provincial development agreements he has announced with New Brunswick since assuming his present portfolio some 18 months ago? Will he discuss the urgency of this matter with his officials?

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Minister of State for Economic Development and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Madam Speaker, the negotiations with the Provinces, of course, are ongoing on many fronts between the various sectoral Ministers. However, the economic and regional development agreement, the framework agreement itself, as I indicated, will be entered into, hopefully before the end of this year, with luck, and pursuant to that I would hope that a number of initiatives would be brought forward by the sectoral Ministers for implementation in the very near future.

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AIR CANADA

REQUEST FOR IN-FLIGHT BAN ON SMOKING

Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and it relates to the disastrous Air Canada flight out of Texas where in excess of 20 lives were lost, and the subsequent fire on a flight to Bermuda allegedly caused by a deportee, in the lavatory of that aircraft. Notwithstanding the question of fire retardant material, has the Minister of Transport, together with his colleague, the Minister of Health, considered an over-all policy of banning smoking, if not on all flights at least on short-haul flights or those of less than two hours' duration? Has the Minister given this matter serious consideration in order to protect the lives of the travelling public?

● (1450)

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I already answered the question some ten days ago, if I recall. I exposed myself to some chastisement by saying that smoking was still socially acceptable. I had some correspondence on the subject from people who told me that it was not. Be that as it may, the situation now in airplanes is that there are non-smoking and smoking areas, which implies that smoking is permitted. I am aware of a study that the Minister

of National Health and Welfare is also involved in, having to do with smoking in general in public places, but it does not have anything to do with security in the air.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

MANITOBA CHIEFS' CONTROL OVER EXPENDITURES ON
RESERVES

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and is in relation to the attempt by the All Chiefs Budget Committee from the Province of Manitoba to reach a memorandum of agreement with him and his officials. For the last 18 months the chiefs have been trying to come to an agreement with the Minister to give them more control over budgetary expenditures on their reserves. Can the Minister tell us when he will stop stalling and sign an agreement with the chiefs?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, it is not a question of stalling. We are very close to an agreement. There is really only one impediment. They want a type of wording that the law officers of the Crown say would not be legal under our financial administration procedures and law here in Parliament. Subject to that, we are very close indeed.

May I also say that I am meeting with David Ahenakew, the head of the AFN, here in Ottawa this afternoon and we may adopt a type of umbrella agreement, somewhat modelled on the Manitoba agreement, to apply nationally. So I am hopeful it will be worked out very soon.

SIGNING OF AGREEMENT

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, the Minister knows that the Assembly of First Nations have supported the Manitoba chiefs. They want that agreement signed, and the Minister has been telling those chiefs for over a year now that it would be signed soon. He has been saying that his Department officials should not be interfering with the process of Indian self-government. Again, when is the agreement going to be signed? If the Minister cannot say when, can he explain exactly to this House why he feels it cannot be signed?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, I must reiterate that the Hon. Member's premise is totally incorrect. I have indicated to the Manitoba chiefs what I am prepared to sign. I think that captures completely the spirit of what they want. I do not wish to interfere in any way with their aspirations for Indian self-government; that is the objective. That is why the Government gave the widest possible mandate, one that was supported by the Hon. Member's Party, to the Standing Committee, without any restriction at all, so that we could come to a report on which we could base Indian self-government as soon as possible. It is just that some of the wording which I believe some of the chiefs in the Manitoba group wish