

honourable friend will understand that I have no terms of reference immediately to hand. I can tell him that the Minister of Transport in the other place has been a moving spirit—I almost said the moving spirit—in ensuring that the international aviation bodies are convened or being challenged to deal with this matter of terrorism directed against the airlines. Therefore, he is taking a leading part. I feel quite confident in saying that one of the major points that he will be discussing and giving a lead to will be the necessity of improving the standards that have already been set by these international bodies. These bodies are the ones which set the standards for aviation security of all kinds and Canada's record of conformity to those standards is very good. It is quite clear, I think, to most people that there is a serious question as to whether the standards are high enough. I would hazard an opinion that they are not. The Government of Canada will be trying to take the lead in trying to improve these standards on an international basis.

**Senator Sinclair:** I have a supplementary question. In view of the connecting flights that go through our international hubs, would the Leader of the Government give us some insight as to what action has been taken in that regard? What I have in mind, of course, is baggage being inter-lined through international airports such as Mirabel, Toronto and even Winnipeg, which is also an international airport.

**Senator Roblin:** That matter is being addressed along with the others.

#### BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, Senator Frith asked me a few moments ago whether we would be sitting on Friday and I think this might be the appropriate time to have a look at what we might expect from the other place. The two loan improvement acts are before us now and we hope to commence dealing with them today.

Yet to come, today or tomorrow, we have Bill C-53, dealing with Northern Transportation, Bill C-58, dealing with Crop Payments Advances, Bill C-44, dealing with Western Grain Transportation, and Bill C-25, dealing with the Agricultural Stabilization Act which Senator Marshall reported a pre-study on earlier.

There is also a House of Commons Act, which I believe is C-59, and I suspect that we will be receiving it as well. Of course, we will be receiving Bill C-51, the borrowing authority bill. If the pace at which these bills have been reaching us continues, it may very well be that we will be sitting on Friday. We may clear them up tomorrow, but I think it might be wise for all of us to look forward to a Friday sitting. If we can anticipate when we are going to receive them, we can think in terms of whether we will be sitting Thursday evening, Friday morning or whenever. Obviously, we will deal with them as soon as they arrive. I think it is only fair to tell my honourable colleagues what the agenda and the schedule might be.

[Senator Roblin.]

#### INDIAN ACT

##### BILL TO AMEND—THIRD READING

**Hon. Nathan Nurgitz** moved the third reading of Bill C-31, to amend the Indian act.

**The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore:** Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

**Hon. Charlie Watt:** Honourable senators, we have before us a bill similar to one that we considered last year. Through the investigation of Bill C-31, in terms of questioning the minister with respect to the content of this bill, many of us in the Indian community feel that we have examined it to the fullest extent possible, but a lot of us do not understand clearly what it is all about. I do not think that the women who will be affected by this bill fully understand what is really contained in it. Many of us—and I am referring to Indians in the communities that will be at the receiving end of this bill—have different feelings about it.

● (1500)

For that reason, honourable senators, I have serious reservations with regard to Bill C-31. My reservations may not be directly related to the legality of the bill, although, in some ways, they are. However, I will not go into that. I will try to restrict my comments to the general aspects of this legislation and what it means, in my view, to the people who will be at the receiving end of it.

When a whole influx of new people is taken into a small reserve or community, a clear understanding of the conditions under which that is done is necessary in order to maintain respect and peace in the community over the long term to come. I question that aspect of the matter. Are we handling this bill in the best way it could be handled? Why are we rushing this bill through?

I think that we of the Indian community have stated in the past that we do not disagree with the removal of the discrimination provision under section 12(1)(b). We do not deny that that has to be removed. Over and over again, Indians themselves have made that clear—that we do not disagree with the removal of the discrimination provision. The question is: How do we go about it? How do we begin?

I know that a lot of Indian people who will be affected by this bill do not even know how many new people are going to be brought into their communities. Even the minister himself stated that he does not know. That is why he cannot state in explicit terms how much money is to be used and the purposes to which it will be put. He cannot say that because he does not know. Who knows? Only time can tell. If we were to allow the Indian communities a little more time to do their homework, they could identify the number of people involved. But we are rushing this bill.

Honourable senators, I was able to get only one thing out of the minister, and that was a political commitment that was given to me by him in writing. If this bill is going to be voted on favourably in this chamber, I would like to read to honourable senators the letter I received from the minister to make sure that it will be on the legislative record. I would prefer,