

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

map out the further in-depth studies to be conducted and, finally, report simultaneously to Ottawa and Quebec.

Since the studies are being carried out jointly with the province of Quebec, the concurrence of the province will be required before the reports can be made public. The Minister of the Environment made that clear in reply to a question by the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) on October 29, as reported on page 9151 of *Hansard*.

As far as the portion of the hon. member's observations dealing with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is concerned, may I say that the area affected by the proposed developments in James Bay contains a population of 5,500 native people comprising seven Indian bands and a number of Eskimo families. Their traditional pursuits will undoubtedly be affected by the proposed development as much of the wildlife is confined to the river valley areas. The probable effects are being studied.

Needless to say, the proposed development is bringing to the fore the question of Indian interests in the land in which they have lived and toiled for so many years and which was transferred to the province of Quebec in 1898 and 1912. In recent years, Indians have expressed a great deal of concern about rights not only in Quebec but in the whole of Canada. The National Indian Brotherhood and

the respective provincial associations, with financial assistance from the government, are playing a leading role in researching their rights. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is also directly concerned with the determination of the nature and quality of the Indian interests in the land of the province of Quebec, in the James Bay area in particular, and the study of this subject is continuing.

On the provincial side, early in 1967 Quebec created a commission to study the integrity of its territory. That commission, commonly referred to as the Dorion commission, published a part of its report concerning the Indian domain in February, 1971. The conclusions and recommendations of the report are known, but the views of the government of Quebec on the report have not as yet been expressed.

During the same period the Indians of Quebec Association submitted various briefs to the government of Quebec. One of them concerned territorial rights and another concerned fishing and hunting rights. Meetings and discussions between the association and successive governments in Quebec have taken place. To date, however, agreement has not been reached. Negotiations are continuing on this particular aspect of the question and the department is keeping in close touch with the Indians of Quebec Association on these and related matters.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.18 p.m.