

ceedings of the coroner's inquiry into this tragedy, is the minister now prepared to name a senior court judge of competent jurisdiction to conduct an official inquiry into the relevant facts surrounding this incident?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will be considering that, although in the ordinary course I would do so at the time I received the actual report of the investigation into the incident itself. I expect to have that report, and also comments from the independent accident review committee in the fairly near future. At that point I will be able to judge whether an inquiry of the type the hon. member mentions should go ahead.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Transport. With respect to the introduction in this chamber of legislation that I know is well advanced, following the principle of the establishment of a full commission of inquiry on an independent basis, might I ask the minister whether he would feel there is considerable urgency in bringing forward legislation of this nature and whether we might expect a draft of it before the House adjourns for the summer?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I certainly do consider that that kind of legislation is important. As the hon. member knows, I developed a draft bill to produce an independent accident commission and made it available for public comment some time ago. That comment has been important and useful. It will lead to some revisions in the bill in its final form. I am now at the final stage of preparing those changes and submitting them to the cabinet for consideration. At that time I would hope to put the bill before the House for its urgent consideration.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

FUNDING FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the continuing concern for funding for post-secondary education for Indian Bands serviced by the Sudbury district office of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, including Wasse Abin College, the statement by the minister's parliamentary secretary that a submission was before the Treasury Board, and also a commitment by the deputy minister before the standing committee that existing levels of funding for post-secondary education would be maintained, can the minister now assure these bands concerned that funding will be provided by the department to ensure the post-secondary education for their young people this coming school year?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, on the general commitment, I certainly maintain the commitment I have given

before. On the two specific cases the hon. member has referred to, I would have to look into the actual amounts.

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AIR TRANSPORT

CRASH AT CRANBROOK, B.C.—REQUEST CORONER BE PROVIDED WITH UNABRIDGED TRANSCRIPT

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport: it concerns the coroner's inquest at Cranbrook which is investigating the fatal crash of a PWA jetliner. In compliance with the coroner's request, and in the interests of justice, will the minister order his officials to provide the coroner and the jury with the unabridged transcript of radio conversations surrounding the tragedy?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly be giving that consideration when the matter is brought to my personal attention. At that point in time I will expect to have some legal advice, as well, in regard to the situation which of course I do not have fully at hand at the moment.

Mr. Symes: Mr. Speaker, I consider that answer is a stall, in light of the actual request by the coroner to transport officials and their refusal to provide that information. By way of supplementary question, can the minister explain why Cranbrook airport which, according to MOT guidelines, is supposed to have two fire trucks and 11 full-time firemen available, had only one fire truck and one fireman available at the time of the crash? Will the minister also report at the earliest opportunity how many other airports in Canada are below minimum firefighting standards?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, obviously, if the hon. member wishes to ask that type of question in the ordinary way—

An hon. Member: It was in the ordinary way—

Mr. Lang:—all detailed information would be supplied and I would be glad to get it for him. I think the references he is making are newspaper references to what someone thought would be on hand and what actually was on hand. When he accuses me of stalling in regard to dealing with a request from a coroner—

An hon. Member: Forty-three people died.

An hon. Member: The truth hurts.

Mr. Lang:—I must say that until the request is received by me, I can hardly do anything about it. I think it is reasonable for me to say that since it is a legal matter, I would also want legal comment about it.