

Oral Questions

NEGOTIATION OF YUKON LAND CLAIMS

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Madam Speaker, I have a question on a related issue. The Council of Yukon Indians reports that there has been some progress in negotiations with the government regarding their land claims. Unfortunately, as these negotiations reach a crucial stage, the Indian people will not have enough money to continue. Is the minister still committed to these negotiations? Has he submitted a request to Treasury Board for more funds? Since the moneys used are advances on settlement moneys, will he assure the House that the necessary funds will be provided so that the Yukon Indians can successfully conclude these negotiations?

Mr. Nielsen: And will he keep Jack Austin out?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, I would inform the hon. member that the Yukon Indians met with me yesterday. I think they are relatively satisfied with the result of the meeting. Out of this fiscal year they have \$800,000 to draw on to assist them in their research for the negotiation of their particular claim. I indicated to them that, since they had already intruded on that to the extent of \$300,000 that was coming to them, we would try to push up, if possible, the remaining \$500,000 to enable them to conduct the negotiations that are to recommence next week. I also indicated that I would talk to some of my colleagues to assess the need for additional moneys and see what could be done. Yesterday I could make no commitment in that regard. The hon. member is quite right. That claim is proceeding very well, as are most of the comprehensive claims north of 60.

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[Translation]

AIR TRANSPORT

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO SELLING NORDAIR

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and deals with a matter raised previously that he must remember. Because two years have gone by, I believe, since his predecessor made the commitment to privatize Nordair, can the minister tell us today whether he still feels bound by the commitment made by his predecessor, and if so, when this company will be turned over to the private sector?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, everyone knows how much I was in favour of a merger between Nordair and Quebecair, and I worked actively to promote this merger for several months. At some time last summer, a few months ago, when my hon. friend was very busy, I imagine, we came very close to achieving this merger. At that time the Quebec government intervened for some reason and decided to make the project abort by injecting \$15 million into Quebecair. This resulted in a legal problem since

the authorization of the Canadian Transport Commission is required for the approval of such changes of ownership among the shareholders of an air transport company. This decision is now in the hands of the Canadian Transport Commission.

Mr. La Salle: Madam Speaker, I should like the minister to tell us first whether he still feels bound by the commitment of his predecessor, whether the government still intends to privatize that company? Second, does the fact that the Quebec government has invested a few dollars mean that the intention of the government, as expressed by the minister, is now a thing of the past because the Quebec government has become involved in the matter?

Mr. Pepin: Madam Speaker, personally my intentions have not changed but, of course, if other parties change the rules of the game, naturally I have to take into account what they want. So, as far as I am concerned, I am still of the same mind. I remain convinced that merging those two groups would be an important step in rationalizing the Canadian air industry. I am still very much convinced of that, but I must also wait for the decision of the Canadian Transport Commission to see whether or not the transactions that have taken place comply with the regulations.

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[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REVIEW OF MANDATORY SUPERVISION POLICY

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. What is the minister doing to review or change the concept of mandatory supervision for convicts in view of two very serious current matters? The first is the brutal murder of a little girl in Nova Scotia by Joseph Odo while this man, whose homicidal tendencies were well known, was on mandatory supervision. Second is the apparent failure to suspend the mandatory supervision of Clifford Olson who subsequently was charged with several murders in British Columbia. Is the minister taking any review action in view of incidents like these?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I indicated shortly after becoming Solicitor General that I was dissatisfied with the mandatory supervision policy which is really the result of an existing statute which cannot be directly changed outside this House. I asked for an interdepartmental study to be conducted. That study was conducted. It has recommended some far-reaching changes to mandatory supervision.

When I got the study in July, I circulated it through the criminal justice constituency across the country. I indicated that I would wait until the end of October for their comments on these recommendations. I expect to close the book on receiving comments from these groups shortly. I hope that within a few months I will be able to go to cabinet with