

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Greene: I understand that these consultations have taken place. Certainly, I am confident that the government, having foreseen the problem some two years ahead of time, will be ready to answer effectively any application that is made for the construction of a pipeline in the public interest.

Mr. Nielsen: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In the absence of the minister who is enjoying the outdoors in my riding at this moment—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

An hon. Member: What is he doing, hunting?

Mr. Nielsen:—may I direct this question to his parliamentary secretary. Is the government taking immediate steps to consult with the native peoples concerning the settlement of their land claims?

Mr. Judd Buchanan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to draw the question to the attention of the minister.

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AIRPORTS**SUDBURY—REQUEST FOR POLICY STATEMENT ON MUNICIPALLY OWNED FACILITIES**

Mr. Gaétan-J. Serré (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Has he completed in final form his over-all policy regarding grants for the administration and construction of municipally-owned airports? If so, when can we expect an announcement to this effect so that construction and expansion can proceed where the service is urgently needed? I am especially referring to the situation in Sudbury, Ontario.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I hope to have an answer with regard to Sudbury very, very soon and with regard to the over-all policy shortly thereafter.

HAMILTON—POSSIBILITY OF PLACING FACILITIES UNDER JURISDICTION OF FEDERAL DEPARTMENT

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): I have a supplementary or related question with respect to Hamilton Airport. Since it has now become what can probably be called an international airport as a result of the service undertaken by Nordair to Pittsburgh, which will mean that the cost of this particular airport will probably be beyond the reach of the city of Hamilton, does the government intend to discuss this matter with the city of Hamilton and its officials with a view to placing Hamilton Airport under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transport?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter which ought to be considered in the total context of the development of air services for southwestern Ontario. As I have answered in the House on several occasions, I am in a position to discuss this at

[Mr. Nielsen.]

any time with the government of Ontario. I imagine that they have a few other things on their minds at the moment. I think the provincial government is the appropriate agency with which we should speak in the first instance on this and related matters.

POST OFFICE**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON SALARIES OF NON-UNION POSTMASTERS**

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. Some months ago, to be specific, last March, in answer to a question concerning the review of salaries of staff postmasters who are not represented by a union, the Postmaster General said that his department was reviewing that at that particular time. Can he say what has taken place or what progress has been made?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I will take this question as notice. I hope to have a report for the House tomorrow.

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GRAIN**POSSIBLE EFFECT OF PRAIRIE PROVINCES REPRESENTATIONS ON GRAIN STABILIZATION BILL**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the publicly announced intention of the three prairie governments to make common representations to the federal government in respect of policy proposals which are included in Bill C-244, the grain stabilization bill, is the government prepared to delay further debate in the House until such time as those consultations have taken place?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we certainly want to proceed with enactment of Bill C-244 as soon as possible. Discussions had been going on with the provincial governments about it for a long period when it was being discussed with producers. The provincial governments made some technical suggestions with regard to the plan, some of which were adopted. The plan, of course, holds open the possibility for those provincial governments desiring to do so, of being able to pay money or undertake extra financing for farmers. We can certainly co-operate in making that possible for them.

• (4:40 p.m.)

Mr. Gleave: A further supplementary question. Does this indicate that as far as the minister is concerned, any change or adjustment that the provincial government may wish to recommend is limited to the amount of money they are prepared to put into it?

Mr. Lang: No, Mr. Speaker, it does not. We will always very seriously consider any representations they wish to make. Needless to say, if their recommendations involve policies which we consider acceptable we will proceed