

negotiations which are now going on. I welcome the fact that progress has been made and I note that negotiations are to continue. I hope they will be successful. I urge the government to do everything in its power to ensure that a satisfactory agreement is reached.

In this respect I want to outline a few matters which have been of concern to the people of Regina and area regarding this matter. I am going to deal with this in a somewhat disjointed fashion since a notice of motion for the production of papers which I placed on the Order Paper on December 15 has not yet been called by the government. That notice of motion asked for a copy of all correspondence and other documents concerning the proposed sale of land owned by the city of Regina at the Regina airport to the Department of Transport.

Some of the points concerned were dealt with in an article in the *Regina Leader Post* of December 11 last. I might say that this was prior to the recent meetings which were held. The article stated in part:

Negotiations over the proposed sale of airport land in Regina to the federal government have been stalled, with the government refusing to accept the value placed on the land by two independent appraisers—

It was also noted as follows:

Involved are 320 acres of airport land which the federal Department of Transport requires if it is to assume operation of the airport as it announced in 1967.

In reports prepared this summer, the two appraisers, Warren-Hawes Real Estate and Vernon Peterson of the provincial highways department, had assessed the land value at \$16,235 and \$15,400 an acre respectively—

Later on in the article it is pointed out that there are other contentions made by the city which will presently be negotiated regarding the computed value of the rent of the land which is owned by the city and being used at the Regina airport operations since January, 1968, when the last agreement between the city and the Department of Transport expired. There was a statement made by the mayor of Regina, in December last, when he referred to one point upon which I should like to hear the comments of the parliamentary secretary. This was his statement:

Since then the Minister of Transport and his department officials have consistently refused to accept the agreed appraisals and present them to the Treasury Board with recommendation for payment according to the agreement with the city—

Later on it was stated that last March the transport minister agreed that the price of the land would be established by two separate qualified appraisers. I hope the parliamentary secretary can throw some light on these matters and that progress will be made in negotiations. My purpose in drawing this to the attention of the government tonight is to urge the government to do everything to ensure that a satisfactory agreement is reached.

Mr. Judd Buchanan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Duquet), who is unavoidably absent from the House, I am pleased to respond

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briefly to the question raised by the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Burton).

The subject matter is one which has been around for some time in that preliminary discussions and subsequent negotiations between municipal representatives and transport officials have been under study for a number of years. The hon. member's original question was raised on January 15, at which time the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) informed the House of his initial conversation with the newly elected mayor of Regina, His Worship Mayor Walker.

Since that date the minister met with Mayor Walker in Ottawa on January 25 and reported that considerable progress had been achieved from their discussions. Then on January 29, in answering the hon. member's question, the minister stated that he would be going to Regina for further discussions with city officials and indicated that he was very hopeful that a contract could be signed at an early date. To be precise, I quote the minister from *Hansard* of January 29 as follows:

—if we do not resolve the matter completely at that time it will be sufficiently advanced so that the contracts can be signed and the whole deal completed within the present year.

In conclusion, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) asked me to inform the hon. member that he will be meeting this Saturday afternoon with a representative of Mayor Walker and with members of the Regina city council in Regina, and that he is extremely optimistic that satisfactory progress and conclusion can be reached from their discussion.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—PROPOSED OIL PIPELINE FROM PRUDHOE BAY TO VALDEZ, ALASKA—CONSULTATION WITH UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, may I say at the outset how pleased I am to see the minister here during this adjournment debate. I presume he is here to respond to the question raised. Too often those of us who participate in these debates on a fairly regular basis receive a 3-minute reply prepared by someone in advance a reply which has nothing at all to do with the particular representation we make. So I welcome the minister here and look forward to his response.

In recent weeks various Members of Parliament have raised the question of the threat to Canada's west coast ecology by the transshipment of Prudhoe Bay oil, first by pipeline to Valdez Island, Alaska and then by tanker to Cherry Point in Puget Sound which is just a few miles from the Canadian border. Members from Esquimalt-Saanich, Edmonton East, Kootenay West and I have all been attempting, possibly fruitlessly, to spur the Department of External Affairs into action, but as yet—in spite of our representations—we received nothing in reassurance from the minister.

It seems that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) has been unduly reticent about this extremely serious matter. I realize that it is fraught with difficulties for him. Tankers are currently being built by