

*Inquiries of the Ministry*STE. SCHOLASTIQUE AIRPORT—ESTABLISHMENT OF
SPECIAL AREA

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

As regards the Ste. Scholastique airport construction project, would the minister be in a position today to state when he is going to announce the establishment of a special zone which is needed for the implementation of this project?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, there will be a special zone north of Montreal, and this will be announced in the very near future.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me we are moving away from the original question, but the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Waterloo on a supplementary.

CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES TO PREVENT MOVEMENT
OF FIRMS FROM ONE PROVINCE TO ANOTHER

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Has his attention been drawn to the grant made by the Ontario Development Corporation to a Quebec-based company to get that company to move from Quebec? My question to the minister is whether he is consulting with the provinces to make sure that when there is competition between provinces they do not obviate whatever work is being done and that one province does not work against another, with perhaps both of them working against federal policy?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, we are taking all the precautions that are humanly possible to prevent these incentives, which are public money, from being used by industries for moving from one province to another. Before granting an incentive, we make sure that there exists an adequate market for the additional production and for instance we do not accept that a new industry use this money obtained from the government to ruin or weaken another industry.

[English]

Mr. Saltsman: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. First I suggest to hon. members that we are leapfrogging from supplementary to supplementary over different subjects. I will recognize the hon. member for Waterloo on a supplementary and then the hon. member for Lotbinière.

Mr. Saltsman: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. He may not have understood that portion of the question I directed to him when I asked him whether he is holding consultations with the provinces to make sure that this kind of working against each other does not take place?

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, there may be consultations with the provinces in some instances, but usually these things are discussed directly with the officials of the industries concerned in the light of the information we have on hand about the area involved.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

CONVERSION OF COQUALEETZA HOSPITAL INTO COM-
MUNITY CENTRE—FAMILY AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

In view of protests received from the Indians, is the minister ready to assure us that the Coqualeetza Indian hospital and the land adjoining it in British Columbia will be used to meet the needs and care of the Indian people in the area in accordance with their best interest and requests?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we are studying this proposal. Until now the Indians have made three different proposals; we are studying the consequences and if, as we have told them, it is in their best interest we will give them the building in question. We must however take into account the financial means of the government and if it proves impossible to finance this proposal, we will have to look for an alternative.

Mr. Fortin: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to ask the minister whether there has been an advance discussion or agreement between his department and the Department of National Health and Welfare with regard to this decision of taking away this hospital for Indians?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, this hospital belongs to the Canadian government and not to the Indians. We gave the Indians certain sums of money to enable them to conduct studies on the matter. We are considering their suggestions and as I said we will accept only those which are sensible. We are not however in a position to give an answer at this time.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question.

Can the hon. minister assure the House that the government will implement the program that was submitted to him by the Indians in this area, especially those programs concerning family and social services as well as the development of Indian arts?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, there are programs of this nature in British Columbia as elsewhere. As to whether they should be located in Chilliwack, this is another aspect of the problem, which as a matter of fact we are examining. These programs need not be located in this community, but they might be.