

Inquiries of the Ministry
NORTHERN AFFAIRS

RECOMMENDATION RESPECTING INDIAN
 AND ESKIMO RIGHTS COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister who will become the minister of Indian affairs and northern affairs. Has the twelfth annual conference of the Indian and metis association communicated to him its resolution recommending the setting up of an Indian and Eskimo rights commission and, if so, what is the government's intention in this regard?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think I would prefer to take this question as notice.

AIR CANADA

WINNIPEG—REPORT OF INQUIRY RESPECTING
 MAINTENANCE BASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. R. Sherman (Winnipeg South): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Transport. In view of the urgency to the city of Winnipeg, and since the previously indicated publication date of January 31 is some three weeks past, can the minister now say when the Thompson commission report on Winnipeg's aviation future will be published?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): As soon as it is available.

Mr. Churchill: You have said that for months.

Mr. Sherman: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. The answer "as soon as it is available" has been given in respect of frequent inquiries over the past eight months, and I request a more explicit and definite date if possible from the minister.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. Can the minister be clear on one point; does he have possession of the report?

Mr. Pickersgill: No.

[Later:]

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether the people of Winnipeg may assume that the Air Canada overhaul and maintenance base will be maintained there in full force and effect and with full employment.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I never said I would agree to increased taxes. When I was asked whether I would eventually object to them, I said that if higher taxes could be afforded, I would have no objection. This is a relative rather than an absolute position. As far as a capital gains tax is concerned, I said, pointing out that I was speaking for myself, that I was in favour of it. I have not changed my mind today.

[English]

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. Is there now a government policy evolved by which ministers take on a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde identity?

[Translation]

FAMILY ALLOWANCES

INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE INCREASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Further to an answer on the order paper to the effect that family allowances had increased 9.4 per cent since 1945 and that the cost of living was up 87.7 per cent, is the right hon. Prime Minister considering increasing the rates of family allowances on the basis of the cost of living index?

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me that this question is of a general nature and could be placed on the order paper.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—REPORTED STATEMENTS
 BY U.S. SENATORS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Colin Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the minister's attention been drawn to the statement of Senator Fulbright, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee in Washington, in which he announced his support for the position taken by Senator Robert Kennedy with regard to the inclusion of the Viet Cong in any negotiations and in any future interim government in Viet Nam, and if so is the Canadian government prepared to support Senators Fulbright and Kennedy in that position?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will have to examine what both senators said.