

PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. Harry Chadwick (Bramalea—Gore—Malton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport.

In an effort to control the impact of noise on surrounding communities, transport officials at Pearson International Airport have promised to move ahead with a tough timetable for phasing out noisy stage two aircraft.

Could the minister tell me and the residents of Bramalea—Gore—Malton if this promise is being applied to the new carriers that are scheduled to begin operations at Pearson in the summer of 1992.

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the hon. member knows that night flight restrictions are already in place at Pearson airport on chapter two aircraft. We will introduce regulations pretty soon and start consultation on a decision to phase out as of December 31, 1995, until 2002 all the chapter two aircraft. This will apply to existing air carriers and new ones.

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THE CONSTITUTION

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs.

Lately the government has shown a renewed enthusiasm for a referendum so that the Canadian Constitution will be approved by the people of Canada. Agreement or no agreement, it will have the stamp of the people of Canada so there will be no dispute after it is over. Will the government consider referring Bill C-287, the private member's bill of the member for Etobicoke—Lakeshore, to the justice committee right away so that members of Parliament can look at the legislation and be ready when this legislation is needed?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that suggestion. As he knows, the private member's bill is a quite complex bill that would deal with referendum law generally in the country.

Oral Questions

The government is considering various means by which we can give effect to the undertaking in the throne speech for consultation with Canadians. A plebiscite would be one instrument, a referendum would be another.

I simply want to make it clear that from our point of view it is very important, particularly in the next few weeks, to ensure that the multilateral process of consultations among federal, provincial and territorial governments be given every opportunity to work. We would not want to take any action which would suggest any commitment other than that.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the minister will not impose any threat at all or change the pattern. It was a commitment that this government made to this House in the Speech from the Throne a year ago. In order to make sure that things open at the right time, we have to be ready. No one can take any objection to the fact that we are doing our homework right away so that there will be no rushing at the last minute that will create a controversy. They will know exactly where this government and this Parliament stand.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs): I agree with the statement of the Leader of the Opposition that the Government of Canada and the Parliament of Canada obviously have that right. We are considering how we will give effect to the commitment in the throne speech.

I think the Leader of the Opposition would join with me in wanting to ensure that the process of discussion among governments also be as successful as possible. The ideal situation of course would be if the people in Quebec, when they had to come to their decision, which we know is established by law in their province, would know that there are proposals for constitutional change that have the broad support of the governments of Canada and of the people of Canada.