

INDIAN AFFAIRS

NORTHERN QUEBEC—TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION OVER ESKIMOS

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Has the minister received any communication, particularly from five Eskimo communities in Quebec, objecting to the proposal to transfer jurisdiction over them to the province of Quebec? If so, what is the minister going to do about these objections?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I did receive the representations of those five Eskimos. They will contribute to a large extent to a more thorough study of the record, once the officials of the federal government and of the provincial government are back from their consultation tour in New Quebec.

[English]

Mr. Howard (Skeena): A supplementary question to the minister. Inasmuch as the representations were that the Eskimo people wanted the choice of government to be made by them, instead of having a government imposed on them, will the minister accede to their request?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, we have always kept since 1964 the same approach, namely that we intend to consult the Eskimos before acquiring any service from provincial authorities.

[English]

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister. This is the second time in a few days that the minister has replied that there will be no transfer of jurisdiction without consultation with the Eskimo people. May I ask the minister specifically whether he will undertake here and now not to transfer jurisdiction without the consent of the Eskimo people?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has himself indicated that he has asked this question before, and I doubt whether it would be in order to ask it again at this time.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I asked the question the other day and the

21701—48½

Inquiries of the Ministry

minister rose to reply, but Your Honour will remember that you then passed on to another question and it was too late. Since the minister did rise to reply at that time I should like him to have an opportunity now to make it abundantly clear whether consent of the Eskimo people will be sought before there is any transfer of jurisdiction.

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I have always stated in the House that we intended to consult the Eskimo people and this is what we are doing presently.

[English]

Mr. Baldwin: A further supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest that there be no further supplementaries. We have very nearly run out of time and should pass on to another subject.

AIR TRANSPORT

IMPOSITION OF SURCHARGE BY SPANISH GOVERNMENT ON CANADIAN FLIGHTS

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. About ten days ago I asked the Minister of Transport about the surcharges imposed by the Spanish government on Canadian charter airlines that fly to Spain. I am wondering whether any report has been received in this connection since this action has had a very serious effect on Canadian carriers?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, we have not yet received a report.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

HAY LAKES—ALLEGED MISUSE OF BAND FUNDS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Is the minister now able to give me an answer to a question that I have asked on several occasions in connection with alleged irregularities with respect to the spending of \$100,000 of the funds of an Indian band in northern Alberta?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I have not yet received any final