

*Oral Questions*

considering this matter; it will be dealt with in due course and it will not take very long.

[Translation]

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**NORTHERN PIPELINES****FOOTHILLS' ROUTE—SETTLEMENT OF INDIAN LAND CLAIMS**

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. As the minister knows, there is a great deal of serious concern about the lack of progress in the settlement of the Yukon Indian land claims. This concern is being expressed not only by the Council of Yukon Indians but also by Mr. Robert Blair, chairman of Foothills Pipe Lines and the president of Foothills Oil Pipe Lines, a sister company, who cited this lack of progress as a reason for withdrawing his company's application before the National Energy Board.

Following the recent meeting with representatives of the Council of Yukon Indians, can the minister report to the House what plans he has to get negotiations going which will lead to a satisfactory settlement of this outstanding claim, a settlement which will open the door to economic development in the north?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** In response to the hon. member's question, Mr. Speaker, I must first indicate to him that meetings have been held with the Council of Yukon Indians and representatives of the Yukon territorial government. I had two meetings with the Council of Yukon Indians yesterday, and one meeting with the representatives of the Yukon territorial government. We all agreed it was essential that land claims negotiations begin and that they move forward speedily. All hon. members are interested in an early settlement.

We have not concluded the various matters that were on the table. I will be meeting with the Yukon territorial council representatives today at 5.30 and with the Council of Yukon Indians today at seven o'clock.

**Mr. Penner:** Is it not the case that the government really has no policy for the settlement of northern native claims? Will the minister get busy right away and apply himself to this serious matter and announce to this House, without any more delay, exactly what is the policy of the government in the settlement of these claims? Exactly what is the policy of the government?

● (1440)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That question contained not one, not two, but three argumentative points.

[Mr. MacKay.]

**AIR TRANSPORT****SALE OF NORDAIR—INQUIRY WHETHER QUESTION WILL BE REFERRED TO CTC**

**Mr. Pierre Deniger (Laprairie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Last week he said in the House that he intended to make a recommendation to cabinet within a month concerning the sale of Nordair. In the meantime, does he intend to refer the matter to the Canadian Transport Commission?

[English]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I shall be making a proposal to cabinet on the disposition of Nordair and it will, naturally, follow that this will have to be approved by the CTC in due course.

[Translation]

**Mr. Deniger:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Is the Minister of Transport aware that the Canadian Transport Commission has exclusive authority to issue licences for the commercial operation of air carriers and the sale of these transportation undertakings? Is he and his government going to impose a political decision on an administrative tribunal?

[English]

**Mr. Mazankowski:** That is not at all the intention of the government. Any change in the ownership of Nordair will, naturally, have to be approved by the CTC.

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**INTERNATIONAL TRADE****TRADE IMBALANCE—EFFECT THEREON OF LOSS OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS**

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Thunder Bay-Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to the Minister of State for International Trade. Does his pessimistic view of the current account trade imbalance reflect his calculation of the loss of the Argentine contract, the loss of the Japanese contract, the loss of the Mexican contract, the disturbance to Middle East trade, all of which result from the actions or inaction of this government?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of State for International Trade):** First of all, we have not lost the Japanese contract. The Mexican contract is still being worked upon: there is a study which was commenced two months ago and we expect it to take about six months; then we shall be able to proceed with further negotiations in connection with that contract.

The statement I made yesterday with regard to the current account balance next year is related primarily to the fact that trade with the United States is likely to continue to be poor in the coming year. The deficit with the United States this year is