

Oral Questions

at this stage, I would say that the cabinet is reviewing the comprehensive land claim.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, if I understand correctly, the minister met with COPE officials in August and July and promised them he wanted to resolve any differences with respect to the claim they or the government had, and would be willing to meet with them again. Why will he not meet with COPE officials before he proposes any changes, or proposes an indefinite delay in respect of their claim? Does he know that they are presently in Ottawa and would like to meet with him to discuss any changes he might have in mind?

● (1450)

Mr. Epp: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I know they are in Ottawa. We have scheduled a meeting for November 14.

Mr. Allmand: That is not correct.

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[*Translation*]

TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE BETWEEN QUEBEC AND SAINT JOHN, N.B.

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. As the Canadian Transport Commission authorized, last summer, the discontinuance of an interregional service between northwestern New Brunswick and Quebec City—that is, the passenger service—while authorizing passenger service between Sherbrooke and Saint John, N.B., by way of the state of Maine, thus depriving the citizens of northwestern New Brunswick of any passenger service at all in that part of central Canada, can the minister tell the House whether or not he will ask the cabinet to overrule that decision, since it has the power to do so, and as soon as possible put an end to the relative isolation of the people of northwestern New Brunswick?

[*English*]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that this matter is going to be reconsidered by the Railway Transport Committee of the CTC; in other words, that decision is going to be reviewed.

[Mr. Epp.]

[*Translation*]

AIRPORTS

REQUEST GRANTS BE MADE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF LANDING-STRIP AT SAINT-LEONARD

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I doubt that the question will be reviewed since, if I understand correctly, the Canadian Transport Commission has exhausted all possibility of review as a result of the energetic protests of the citizens of that area and the matter now rests with cabinet. Still, Mr. Speaker, in view of the relative and serious isolation of the people of that area, compared with other parts of the country, can the Minister of Transport tell me on what date funds will be authorized so that work can continue on the construction of a 6,000-foot landing-strip at the regional airport of Saint-Leonard, with a view to giving that area the possibility of developing economically like all other parts of Canada?

[*English*]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member wants the government to reverse a decision which has not finally been taken by the CTC. The Railway Transport Committee has undertaken to review the decision, so I think we will have to await that outcome. As far as the other question is concerned, that matter is under review, Mr. Speaker.

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

TABLING IN HOUSE OF TASCHEREAU PAPERS

Mr. John Gamble (York North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Given the introduction of Bill C-15 and the dedication of this government to free access by the public to hitherto secreted information, and in light of recent efforts by the opposition to terminate the existence of this House without the passage of Bill C-15, will the minister file forthwith in this House the Taschereau papers and that series of documents which has been given the code name of "Featherbed File"?

Hon. Allan Lawrence (Solicitor General and Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is a little confused.

An hon. Member: Naturally, he's a Tory.

Mr. Lawrence: The "Featherbed File" of documents is something quite apart from the Taschereau royal commission documents. I have been attempting since early July to find the legal and statutory authorization for the rather arbitrary decision of the previous government that the Taschereau royal commission documents should be resealed and kept in the Archives for another 20 years.