

to ensure that members of parliament interested in this field have an opportunity, officially, to attend these conferences—because parliament will be the body which has to legislate in this respect—in order that they may glean the views of the native people?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, at each of those consultations, I sent an invitation to the members concerned in the province where they were held and I intend to continue inviting all the hon. members of this house to attend the consultations at the provincial level.

[English]

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the minister would give consideration to the provision and paying of legal counsel for the Indian band representatives attending these meetings.

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, we are taking all the necessary means to help the Indians be well prepared for those consultations.

As for the consultations now under way, they are the first series. This is an entirely new process for the Indians. We understand their difficulties, but I can assure the hon. member that there will be a second series of consultations and, at that time, the Indians will be still better prepared to contribute to the conferences.

[English]

Mr. Simpson: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the minister could assure the house that this request which I have put forward will be given consideration, and that it will be legal counsel of the Indian people's choice?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I shall examine this possibility.

AIRPORTS

QUEBEC—INQUIRY AS TO CONSTRUCTION IN EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister of Transport. Could the minister inform the house about an eventual decision of his department as regards the construction of an international airport at Farnham, or in the eastern townships?

[English]

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am not yet in a position to indicate to the house which site will be chosen for the international airport. A number of regions were studied by the consulting engineers who were retained for that purpose. They have made their recommendations to the department. More recently we have been in consultation with the provincial government to discuss with them the provision of ground services—for example, the ground transportation—to whatever site might be chosen. These discussions will continue at the technical level, and it is my hope that we can take a decision with respect to the site sometime before the first of December.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Could the minister also consider the construction of an international airport at Rouyn-Noranda?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. members will notice that I have exercised considerable leniency this morning, but I hope hon. members will not take advantage of the situation to promote the construction of airports in all the constituencies of Canada.

[Later:]

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, could the Minister of Transport tell me when construction will begin for the Victoriaville regional airport?

Mr. Speaker: Order. May I suggest that this question be entered first in orders of the day.

[English]

GRAIN

REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN CASH ADVANCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to