

Adjournment Debate

I find that an incredible statement for the Minister of Transport to make. When you move a major runway on a major international airport half as close again to a heavily populated residential area, I cannot see how anyone can say that is not a move which affects the environment of the people living there.

Strangely enough, shortly after my question the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta (Mr. Reynolds) asked a supplementary question of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Davis). The Minister of the Environment said, as reported at page 276 of *Hansard* for January 15:

Our basic policy is that we should prepare environmental impact studies and that they should be made available to the general public.

The hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta then asked the minister whether such studies had also been done with regard to the Pickering and St. Scholastique airports.

The reason this matter becomes important is that the expropriation hearing commences tomorrow. Under the new expropriation proceedings which were gazetted on October 7, there are 120 days to complete the process. Under the procedure, after the expropriation proceedings close the government then decides, as it properly should, whether the expropriation will be confirmed or abandoned. My point is very simple and straightforward. I would appreciate it very much, and I know that the objectors who will appear at this hearing would appreciate it also, if the minister would make available, as he is required to do under the statute, to the objectors and the hearing officer any and all environmental studies that apparently have been made. They should be made available in time for the objectors to study them for the hearing.

My second point is that if such studies have not been made—and that may be possible because the Minister of the Environment indicated today that although he was sure the studies had been made, he did not know where they were, or could not locate them—the minister or his parliamentary secretary should assure this House that the hearing will be adjourned until studies can be made and presented to the objectors before the hearing closes.

Lastly, if there was a study but it is not yet available, I ask that the hearing be adjourned until such time as the study is made available in sufficient time for the objectors to consider it and make their objections accordingly. I am not saying that there is necessarily an environmental danger as a result of moving this runway. I do not know. Until we see the effects of the study we will have no way of knowing. It is common sense that this study should be made available before the magic date of February 4, and you can count the days when the government has to confirm or abandon the expropriation proceedings.

I ask the minister or his parliamentary secretary to take immediate action on this question, to take steps to deliver the studies tomorrow, or adjourn the hearing if the studies have not been done, and have them done. This must be done before the time runs out.

Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): There is no special study, as such, being carried out, but because of our noise standards we are aware of the implications of noise pollution. This is taken into account in the over-all study of airport development, and in this case in the construction of the new runway. Liaison has also been carried out with provincial and municipal authorities on other environmental matters related to the new runway. We do not plan to make any report to the expropriation hearing, but if questions are raised on these matters, answers will be given.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.19 p.m.