

agreed position with the Indians in the James Bay area before proceeding with the power project?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has commented previously on this question. He indicated to the House that he did not want to act in a paternalistic way toward the Indians but that we would assist them in every way we were obliged to under the law and, indeed, our policy is to assist them.

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AIRPORTS

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL—PROPOSED NEW RUNWAY—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, if I may change the subject my question is for the Minister of Transport. Because questions were raised on Monday last at the expropriation hearings in Vancouver asking what environmental impact the proposed new runway at Vancouver International Airport will have, will the minister fulfil the statement made to the House by his parliamentary secretary on January 16 to the effect that answers will be given and now give such answers to the House as well as to the objectors and the public attending the said expropriation hearings?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, hon. members know that the public inquiry now being held under the Expropriation Act is very limited, that is to say the commissioner can only receive complaints. He cannot decide on the consequences of the noise or plane exhaust gases on the environment; he merely hears the objections.

We have consulted all specialized government services on the consequences of noise and temperature on the environment; the Department of the Environment is supposed to collate all those reports. I shall be happy to send one to my hon. friend.

[English]

• (1500)

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Transport. There is a clear commitment here to answer the question that has been raised, that is, what will the environmental impact be? Surely the Minister of Transport must inform the House when he is going to give the answer rather than an explanation of what he is looking at.

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. Yesterday he was quoted as saying there were environmental impact studies carried out respecting the Vancouver airport and that he would release them if they were requested to be released by the Minister of Transport. Has that minister requested these environmental impact findings, and will he release them?

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Oral Questions

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, there have been environmental assessments done. They have been done over the years by the various agencies of government which have been commissioned by the Department of Transport to carry out assessments of airport plans. They are not within one set of covers and are not readily available. I am not referring here to the expropriation of a few homes, the removal of which does not create any environmental hazard whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for a supplementary question, but hon. members will appreciate that we are quickly reaching the end of the question period and a number of members are still waiting for an opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. Reynolds: Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. The Minister of the Environment has said the reports are there. Will the Minister of Transport release these findings to the people, so they will know what is going to happen in Vancouver when the airport is expanded and will have a fair chance at the hearings to enter objections in respect of the facts contained in the findings which they cannot get their hands on right now?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I think the Minister of Environment is right, Mr. Speaker, because these are two different things. On the one hand it deals with a review of arguments against building the airport and new runways while on the other it bears on specialized reports. I am willing to join them in one single item and publish it if the hon. member wants to get a copy of it.

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HARBOURS

POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING NATURAL HARBOUR AT POINTE-AU-PIC

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport or to the Minister of Public Works.

Has the department received representations from the Murray Bay Marine Terminal of Pointe-au-Pic regarding the possibility of developing the natural port of Pointe-au-Pic?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker. I will check and reply later to the hon. member.

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[English]

COMMUNICATIONS

REPORTED GOVERNMENTAL SURVEY OF CANADIAN WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

Mr. Ellwood Madill (Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and deals with a report that the minister's department plans to conduct an in-depth survey of