

Inquiries of the Ministry

research and material upon which the government's calculation is based so that the country will be in a position to judge who is right?

Mr. Speaker: I would suggest that this information could be given by way of a statement on motions.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I simply asked whether the minister is prepared to disclose this information to the House. He is a very forthcoming minister and might be prepared to do it.

Mr. Speaker: I suggest he should not forthcoming at this time.

Mr. Stanfield: I do not wish to be difficult or stubborn about this, Mr. Speaker, but I simply asked not whether he is prepared to make a statement but whether he is prepared to disclose this material at his convenience.

Mr. Benson: Immediately Ontario came out with different figures we offered to compare our figures with theirs and they took some time to supply us with the details of their calculations. When they did there was an obvious error of \$200 million and perhaps many more errors. We then offered to meet with them to compare the figures and they asked for a ten-day postponement. My officials are appearing before the parliamentary committee. The committee has the right to ask for any formation it wants with regard to calculations and so on. I understand my officials have been co-operating completely with the committee.

INDIAN AFFAIRS**NORTHERN QUEBEC—TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION OVER ESKIMOS—RIGHT TO VOTE**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Some days ago he informed the House that certain individuals were looking over the situation in northern Quebec and Ungava in connection with the Eskimo population there who apparently are destined to be brought under provincial control. What has been the result up until now of the discussions which have taken place? Second, will he give assurance to these Eskimo people that before action of this kind is taken they will have the right to vote concerning whether or not they wish to continue exclusively under federal jurisdiction, which is constitutionally

[Mr. Stanfield.]

their right, or have certain portions of the jurisdiction over them transferred to the province?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, to answer the first part of the right hon. member's question, officials who have been assigned to this task by the federal and provincial governments are soon to leave for discussion of this problem with the Eskimos. We have undertaken to consult them on this matter, and this is the reason why we have not reached any decision. Nevertheless, I want to assure the House that any renting of services by the federal government from the provincial government, aimed at giving better service to the Eskimos, will not take away from them any constitutional right. They will continue to be protected by the British North America Act.

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is not the question I asked. I asked what right the government of Canada has to move these people around as if they are chattels without having a vote on their part to accept. Consultation is all right but approval is a different matter and they have a right to a vote.

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, under the agreements reached by the federal and provincial governments in 1964, it was decided that the Eskimos would be consulted about the development of this procedure and this is what we are doing now. I said that they were being consulted and that is what we are actually doing.

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: But they have to have the right of agreement. They cannot be pushed around like that.

AIR TRANSPORT**IMPOSITION OF SURCHARGE BY SPANISH GOVERNMENT ON CANADIAN FLIGHTS**

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to either the Secretary of State for External Affairs or the Minister of Transport. Is it the intention of the Canadian government to make representations to the Spanish government under the bilateral air agreement with regard to the action of that government in imposing