

Motions for Papers

Mr. J. E. Walker (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Atlantic regional desk is a division of the Prime Minister's office and communications from it to the Prime Minister are regarded as internal documents and therefore privileged. I would hope the hon. member would therefore agree to withdraw this motion.

Mr. Comeau: Mr. Speaker, since there appears to be no way of finding out about these regional desks, I ask that the motion be transferred for debate.

Mr. Speaker: Transferred for debate.

EXAMINATION OF CANADIAN TRUCKING FIRMS BOOKS BY U.S. AGENCIES

Motion No. 286—**Mr. Barnett:**

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House copies of all arrangements, agreements, etc., between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States regarding the examination of books of Canadian trucking firms by United States regulatory agencies.

Mr. D. W. Groos (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the government of Canada does not have any documents with respect to the examination of the records of Canadian companies by United States regulatory agencies, principally because the government of Canada has delegated its responsibility for motor traffic to the provincial highway transport boards. While the government of Canada is aware by hearsay that informal arrangements may have been made between provincial authorities and the United States agencies, there is nothing in our records which would disclose this.

In view of the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I would therefore ask the hon. member to withdraw his motion.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Speaker. I hope that early action under part III of the Transportation Act will bring a more positive return. Since there is no correspondence, I will gladly withdraw the motion at this time.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is dropped.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining notices of motions stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Mr. Comeau.]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

AIR TRANSPORT

POSSIBLE STRIKE OF TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board, Mr. Speaker. I do so in view of the statement that was made that negotiations are to resume at 4.30 in connection with the difficulties regarding the air transport controllers. Has the minister instructed or will he undertake to instruct the government's negotiators to take a generous view toward the question of limiting hours of work? I put this question to the minister in view of the critical responsibility of these men for the safety of air passengers and also in view of the recent statement by the president of the association that the association is willing to compromise on its salary demands if the government is willing to make a proper settlement with regard to hours of work.

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to make any comments in relation to negotiations currently in progress. They are now in progress elsewhere behind closed doors. In fact the government has, prior to the negotiations and before the conciliation board, recognized the special situation of the air traffic controllers in respect of the difficulties of their work and the necessity for some accommodation in respect of hours of work. This instruction has already been given.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I hope in view of the seriousness of the situation that the minister is prepared to make certain that the instructions are adequate in this respect. I ask him also whether, in view of the evidence that the air traffic controllers are subjected to exceptional stress arising from their very responsible work, the government is prepared to undertake a study into the causes of and remedies for the situation. I ask this question with particular reference to the importance of protecting the public who travel by air.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, such a study has been under way for some months now. Perhaps the Minister of Transport can give details.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, a preliminary study