

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Starr: We want to find out what is going on.

Mr. Benson: The order in council is dated June 23, 1966, and says:

The Committee of the Privy Council advise that pursuant to part II of the Inquiries Act, authority be granted to the Minister of Transport to appoint His Honour John Beverley Robinson, District Judge of the Temiskaming District, in the Province of Ontario, as a Commissioner to inquire into and report upon the conditions of employment of air traffic controllers, and in particular:

1. To examine the factors and considerations that should be taken into account in determining rates of pay for air traffic controllers, bearing in mind the unique duties, responsibilities and requirements they are expected to carry and meet;

2. To examine the relationship between these unique duties, responsibilities and requirements and the conditions of employment applying to air traffic controllers, including the arrangements for hours of work and overtime and for security of employment in circumstances where, for medical reasons, employees are unable to continue in the type of work for which they are trained;

3. To examine the need, if any, for special provisions, unrelated to established rates of pay, to compensate air traffic controllers for these unique duties, responsibilities and requirements; and

4. To report to the Minister of Transport as quickly as possible on the above matters, if possible within 60 days of appointment, with such recommendations as he deems appropriate, including recommendations on the effective dates of any changes proposed.

The rest of the order simply sets out the normal powers of a commissioner.

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the answer the minister has now given, does he not agree that Judge Robinson did exactly what he was asked to do? He has given a report; he has made recommendations. Why is it, then, that the government refuses to accept those recommendations?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that the question asked by the hon. member is more in the form of argument.

Mr. MacDonald (Prince): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Later:]

REQUEST FOR TBLING OF ROBINSON REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David MacDonald (Prince): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport. In light of the considerable controversy which surrounds the first part of Judge Robinson's report, would the minister

be willing to table this report in the House of Commons?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I should like to think that request over, but it seems to me that it is not an unreasonable one.

[Translation]

FINANCE

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BY FINANCE MINISTERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance and Receiver General who always gives me clear and definite answers.

He told us a little earlier that, at the beginning of next week, a meeting of the provincial Ministers of Finance would be held to discuss monetary matters of interest to each of them. Does the minister intend to suggest to them that the Bank of Canada should be used to finance without interest the development of their respective provinces?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the Minister of Finance whether these meetings will be entirely in camera.

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker. They are for the purpose of exchanging views about our future plans, and I do not think it would be appropriate for these meetings to be held in public.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson).

NATURAL GAS

TRANS-CANADA PIPE LINES—ALLEGED MISREPRESENTATION IN UNDERTAKINGS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that the Federal Power Commission staff counsel in Washington has reported directly to the F.P.C. accusing