

[Translation]

IMMIGRATION

VISAS FOR LOUISEVILLE COLOMBIAN WORKERS— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Given the precarious situation of the 37 Colombian weavers of Louiseville who have obtained some support from Quebec, does the minister intend to grant them an immigration visa?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I missed the first part of the question. I presume it relates to the Colombian workers who were brought in to work in the textile industry. As the hon. member knows, we have extended their permission to be here and we are looking at all possible means to alleviate a situation which arose, perhaps, inadvertently.

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POST OFFICE

MONTREAL—ALLEGED SLOWDOWN OF SERVICE— GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. Has the Postmaster General investigated the report which appeared in the *Montreal Star* on Thursday last under the byline of Mr. Claude Adams to the effect that there was a deliberate slowdown in postal service in the Montreal post office which included sporadic and erratic situations, double and triple sorting of sacks and other activities of that kind, and if he is investigating this report, would he be making a statement to the House on the matter?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, we are constantly monitoring all our main post offices including that in Montreal, and the performance in the Montreal post office leaves something to be desired. On the other hand, there are officials there today making certain that our supervisors in the Montreal area have the required authority to prevent such action from being taken.

● (1500)

Mr. Dinsdale: A supplementary question. In view of the statement of the Postmaster General that a small number of troublemakers are out to destroy the whole system, would he report to the House on this matter in order to restore the good name of the majority of postal workers and also to avoid further more serious disruptions of this kind?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the House that right now the majority of postal workers are entitled to a good name. They are law abiding citizens who do excellent work and provide the third best postal system in the world. I might add, Mr. Speaker, that the group I am

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talking about is not confined to Montreal; it is found in other areas as well. The ideological conflict will be sorted out in due time.

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AIR TRANSPORT

REGIONAL AIR CARRIERS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF POLICY

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Since Canada's five regional airlines have stated that an urgent review of regional air policy is very necessary to them especially since they contend, and rightly so, that they are operating within the framework of the 1966 policy, I should like to ask the minister in view of the fact that his department has had some discussions with the regional air carriers about this program in the past two months, if he can inform the House what steps will be taken to upgrade regional air policies? Can the minister also inform the House whether a policy statement will be forthcoming in regard to what the Department of Transport intends to do in connection with regional carriers?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the policy which I hope can be announced shortly will cover not only the regional air carriers but it will cover the third level air carriers, it will cover the boards, it will cover the airports, the railways, the highways—it will cover everything that moves in Canada.

Mr. Diefenbaker: It won't cover the government, then.

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AGRICULTURE

BEEF CATTLE—GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO AID PRODUCER

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the recent crisis in the beef industry that is causing farmers to sell livestock at almost half the cost of production, I should like to ask the minister what steps the government is taking at this time to alleviate the situation?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we have programs for our livestock producers that no other nation in the world has and we can provide stability for their production. We have, for top grade cattle, a support price of \$45.42 per hundredweight. We are reviewing our indexing system for the price we set last August for one year and have announced that this cattle support program will be extended for another year from August, 1975. The provinces also have programs. There is no way we can tell people not to sell their cattle, but I think they would be better off not to sell at this time.