

as represented by the Department of Public Works, the Atlantic Development Board and the Area Development Agency, and the Government of the Province of Newfoundland with respect to the development of a chip mill at Happy Valley, Labrador, a liner board mill at Stephenville, Newfoundland, and supporting facilities in these two areas.

Mr. Russell C. Honey (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, the information requested by the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall) is of a confidential nature given to the government of Canada in the course of government investigation for particular purposes, disclosure of which could be detrimental to the competitive position of the firms.

I have spoken to the hon. member and explained this matter to him, I understand that he will consent to the removal of this notice of motion from the order paper.

Mr. Marshall: I agree, Mr. Speaker.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

[Translation]

BUILDING OF WHARVES AND POST OFFICES IN THE CONSTITUENCY OF COMPTON

Motion No. 68—**Mr. Latulippe:**

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House a copy of all correspondence exchanged between the Government of Canada, particularly as represented by the Department of Public Works, the Atlantic Development Board and the Regional Development Corporation, and the Government of the Province of Quebec on the subject of the wharves and post offices which are supposed to be built in the federal constituency of Compton.

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that no correspondence has been exchanged on the subject mentioned by the hon. member for Compton in his notice of motion and I wonder, in the circumstances, whether he would accept to withdraw his motion.

Mr. Latulippe: I agree.

Mr. Speaker: Is the motion withdrawn?

Motion withdrawn.

[English]

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

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Inquiries of the Ministry
ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

AIR CANADA

ISSUING OF COMMON SHARES—POSSIBILITY OF MERGER

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. It arises from the statement made yesterday by the Chairman of Air Canada to the effect that Air Canada will need some \$300 million more than it can generate from its own revenues to cover the obligations it envisages in the next five years. Will the minister say whether the government is now considering any request from this Crown corporation to issue common shares to the public?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Not at this point, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stanfield: As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance of this service to the Canadian public and the importance of this corporation being able to make its plans well in advance, can the minister indicate the present status of the study regarding possible mergers with this corporation, and will he indicate when a decision will be forthcoming on this matter, as well as on the question as to how the corporation is to meet its various needs?

Mr. Benson: I am not aware of any such studies as my hon. friend mentioned. Perhaps I could refer that part of the question to the Minister of Transport.

The matter of financing Air Canada in the future, with regard to borrowing, has not been decided at this point. Discussions however, are going on between the government and the president of Air Canada.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question which perhaps I should direct to the Minister of Transport or to the Minister without Portfolio. May we be assured that before any of these loans are negotiated the government will make a statement to parliament concerning its intentions about Air Canada, its corporate structure and any negotiations it might be entering into with Canadian Pacific Air Lines.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): I would be hesitant to give that assurance