

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, there was a certain—and I say this without any disrespect—imprecision about the hon. gentleman's question. I wonder whether he would frame it precisely, so that I can give an accurate answer?

Mr. Woolliams: My question, briefly, is this: Has the minister had any discussions with the transport board—

Mr. Pickersgill: The Air Transport Board?

Mr. Woolliams: —yes, the Air Transport Board and his officials in reference to permitting other air companies to land and get permits in those areas where there is no passenger service whatsoever because of the strike and the government's decision with reference to the strike?

Mr. Pickersgill: I of course have had several discussions with the chairman of the Air Transport Board since the Air Canada strike took place and while it was being anticipated. The conclusions of those discussions I set out in a very careful memorandum which I read to the house the other day. I do not think I can add anything to that.

Mr. Woolliams: A supplementary question. Has the minister had an interview with the Mayor of Calgary and other officials in reference to an application by C.P.A. to obtain the right to land in that city, which is a centre of the petroleum industry and other industrial interests?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that it is not in order simply to ask whether the minister has had a conversation with the mayor or with another individual.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, with due deference I think I should be permitted to answer the question. I think it is an urgent one and it would be desirable for me to give accurate facts concerning this matter. Before there was any strike I received a delegation from Calgary, which did not include the mayor but which included an alderman, who I believe was speaking for the mayor. This delegation urged that as a matter of policy, Canadian Pacific Airlines should be allowed to land in Calgary on transcontinental flights. This meeting had nothing whatever to do with the strike. Since the strike occurred I received a telegram from the mayor of Calgary, and I am afraid I have perhaps been discourteous in not yet replying to him, in which he suggested that something might be done with relation to the strike. My position

[Mr. Woolliams.]

in that regard is the one I explained the other day in reply to the hon. member for Kamloops, and I have not suggested any deviation from it.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): As a supplementary, Mr. Speaker: On Friday, November 18, the minister undertook to make inquiries of the Air Transport Board as to whether they had received any indications from any of the carriers that their operations, seeking to extend their runs to areas normally served by Air Canada, would be interfered with. May I ask the minister whether he has received an answer to that inquiry?

Mr. Pickersgill: I made inquiries of the Air Transport Board and I was given an answer that no official representations have been made to them by any of the air lines suggesting any action on their part. Certain observations were made in an informal way by one of the air lines, but I think this was under cover of the confidentiality which usually prevails in matters of this kind, and I would prefer not to be pressed for an answer.

SUPPLY

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Sharp for committee of supply, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Douglas.

INCREASED COST OF LIVING

Mr. Richard Cashin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I have now had an opportunity to read the remarks made yesterday by the leader of the New Democratic Party and I would suggest to you, sir, that this is the latest and most blatant attempt by the leader of that party to discredit not only other political parties, which I suppose is fair game, but also to attack the very institution of parliament. To say the least, these remarks represent an exercise in flamboyant demagoguery the likes of which we have seldom seen in this chamber. The hon. gentleman has surpassed himself in his exploitation of half truths and the dissemination of misleading information. The leader of the New Democratic Party, in his parliamentary smugness, would like Canadians to believe that they are the only party concerned with the well-being and welfare of Canadian citizens.

I suggest that the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas) has seriously