

university graduates, have to migrate to the United States or elsewhere if they are to put into practice what they have learned.

We do not need immigrants to develop our country as much as we need funds to produce more economically.

I have often heard some thinkers within the government, some great economists, state that immigrants eventually become consumers and thus contribute to the development of this country. That is not my opinion, for the immigrant comes to Canada provided he is sure of employment, and owing to industrialization and automation, he becomes more of a consumer than a producer. With the help of machinery, we produce more than we consume.

As to the reduction of prices, thanks to the increase in population, the argument of the government's thinkers does not hold water. In my opinion, there is no need to be concerned by the decreasing number of immigrants, particularly when we consider the situation in Canada today.

• (2:30 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, before we leave motions will the Minister of Transport make a statement to the House about his plans, should the air traffic controllers be forced to go on strike, and give the House at least that information he gave to the media yesterday during the question period outside the chamber when teacher did not permit him to come into the House?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

AIR TRANSPORT

POSSIBLE STRIKE OF TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Since he made statements outside the House with regard to the imminent strike by the air traffic controllers, could he make a statement about the matter to the House today? Particularly, could he inform the House about the present negotiations between Treasury Board

Inquiries of the Ministry

and the Canadian Air Traffic Controllers Association and tell us where the matter now stands?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the answer might more properly come from the President of the Treasury Board. However, I believe I can advise the House that as of this moment representatives of the government and of the air traffic controllers are meeting here in Ottawa with a view to resolving the matters which appear to be in dispute in the negotiations. We will not know until later today if these efforts are successful. We are willing to co-operate in any reasonable way and are still optimistic that the projected strike will not occur. If it should occur despite our best efforts, then I think it is correct to say that it would have a very serious effect on commercial transport and would effectively, because of the safety requirements involved, cause a cessation of most commercial flights in Canada.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of Transport assure the House that he will keep the representatives of Treasury Board and of the Canadian Air Traffic Controllers Association together in discussions until they reach an agreement in order that a disastrous strike may be avoided?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, there is an old expression that it takes two to tangle. I can assure the hon. member that the representatives of Treasury Board will be prepared to continue negotiating non-stop in order to resolve this dispute.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the President of the Treasury Board intend to sit in on the discussions with the representatives of the air controllers? I notice that both he and the Minister of Transport are here while the meetings are going on. Does the minister intend to leave these discussions entirely to his officials or will he or the Minister of Transport, of both, sit in on these discussions in view of the tremendous importance these negotiations have for the people of Canada?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for that advice. If either my presence or that of the Minister of Transport can be helpful, we are prepared to take any part we need to.