

disclose consultations leading to the appointment of judges.

2. No.

3. Franklin E. Rutherford of the city of Regina.

REMOVAL OF EXEMPTION FOR PENSION RECIPIENTS

Question No. 2,292—**Mr. Kennedy:**

Has the government removed the \$500 exemption on income, for income tax purposes, on those taxpayers between age 65 to 70 years who are in receipt of an Old Age Security pension?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board): Yes. The Income Tax Act was amended to that effect in 1965.

C.M.H.C.—APPOINTMENT OF LAWYERS

Question No. 2,295—**Mr. Winkler:**

1. Has government policy regarding the appointment of lawyers to act on behalf of C.M.H.C. changed in the past three years?

2. Is the government encouraging applicants to use the government-appointed C.M.H.C. legal representatives?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):

1. No.

2. No.

COMPARATIVE POPULATION FIGURES

Question No. 2,307—**Mr. Latulippe:**

What was the population of Canada in (a) October 1946 (b) October, 1966?

[Translation]

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Information requested is not available for October 1966. Comparable figures are available for June 1, 1946 and June 1, 1966 and may be helpful.

Estimated population, June 1, 1946, 12,292,000.

Provisional estimate of population, June 1, 1966, 19,919,000.

[English]

AIR TRANSPORT

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL—FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT REPORT IN LABOUR DISPUTE—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 26

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to move the adjournment of the

Air Traffic Control Dispute

house under standing order 26 to discuss an urgent matter of public importance, namely, the threatened strike on Tuesday, December 20, by the Canadian Air Traffic Control Association as a result of the refusal of the government to accept the recommendations of Judge John Robinson, the conciliator appointed by the government. I apologize, Mr. Speaker, for not having had time to have this motion translated into French.

Mr. Speaker: Can the hon. member address the Chair on the urgency of debate.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, without referring to what took place yesterday, my submission is that urgency of debate is clearly established by the exculpatory statements which the President of the Treasury Board made. It is necessary that we secure much fuller information regarding a matter that up to the present time has received desultory consideration by the government. The statements made today simply are delaying ones.

• (3:50 p.m.)

Surely, parliament will not be denied the right to discuss a matter which so directly affects the economy as a national strike of air control personnel, particularly following the explanatory statements which have been made. Here is the position of affairs: The air traffic controllers accepted without question the mediation report by Judge Robinson. The message I received today from the air traffic controllers was that they urge government implementation of those recommendations. Responsibility for the failure to act rests squarely on this government.

This is not the case of a labour dispute in which labour has refused to accept the recommendations made by a body set up by the government. It is a quibble to say that Judge Robinson was not a mediator or a conciliator, but merely a recommender or adviser. That is a transparent quibble. The government has been sitting on this problem for months. It has refused to act, and in order to bail itself out it will place on the order paper a motion to bring about compulsory acceptance of a recommendation made by Judge Robinson or, on the other hand, compulsory acceptance of whatever alternative the government has to offer.

This will be the first time in Canadian history that the government of Canada has tried to get parliament to bail it out for its failure