

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

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**Tuesday, November 22, 1966**

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN THE GALLERY OF THE PRIME  
MINISTER OF MALTA

**Mr. Speaker:** It gives me much pleasure to bring to the attention of hon. members the presence in the Speaker's gallery of a most distinguished visitor, the Prime Minister of Malta, Dr. Borg Olivier. On behalf of the House of Commons, I wish him and his colleagues a pleasant and fruitful visit in Canada.

### COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Report of the joint committee of both houses on the library of parliament dated November 17, 1966 concerning salary revisions in the library of parliament—Mr. Speaker.

Third report of standing committee on northern affairs and national resources, in French and English—Mr. Badanai.

[*Note: Text of the foregoing reports appears in today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

### AIR CANADA

SUGGESTED INTERVENTION BY FEDERAL  
MEDIATOR

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Prime Minister. Since the talks aimed at settling the strike of Air Canada employees have now reached an impasse, the situation being described by one union official as worse than it was, and in view of the fact that for the last nine days passenger and freight air traffic has been at a standstill, to the detriment of all parts of this nation, would the Prime Minister in these circumstances have any plans to name a government mediator in order that bargaining will be continuous, rather than haphazard as it has been to date? What are the prospects of this strike being ended?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it is not accurate to say that talks have reached an impasse or have broken down. If and when that unhappy development does occur, the government will then consider what steps should be taken. Meanwhile I point out to the house that the two parties to the dispute are meeting again tomorrow morning, I think at 10 a.m.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Negotiations have not continued over the last two days, and the description of them in the newspaper is that they have broken down—though I do not know what "broken down" means.

**Mr. Nicholson:** That statement—

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Does the Minister of Labour want to get in on this? I will give him every opportunity if he does. Why does he not take over and appoint a mediator? The mayors of the various cities have told me that the situation is serious, and this government is taking no action.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In answer to a question from me on Friday last the Prime Minister said the question of appointing a government mediator was under active consideration. In view of the fact that the chairman of the union negotiating committee has said that the situation is now worse than ever, which I take to mean that the company is now making an offer which is less favourable than the offer made prior to the strike, does the Prime Minister not think that this type of hit or miss negotiations is no longer likely to be fruitful, and that the government should now undertake to give immediate consideration to the appointment of a mediator?

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, if the union side to the dispute felt that my hon. friend's statement of the situation was justified, then I do not think they would be meeting tomorrow morning with officials from Air Canada. I hope that the meeting tomorrow morning will be more productive than my hon. friend thinks will be the case.