

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, as we are all aware, a deadline is set for a strike in the air controllers' division at all airports throughout the country, on Tuesday next at 8 o'clock in the morning.

The information I have been receiving from time to time today leads me to believe that there is a possibility of a settlement. I cannot confirm that a settlement has been reached. All I can report to you at the moment is that the talks are continuing. If it becomes necessary to have legislation, it will have to be passed by Parliament this weekend. That may involve sittings in the House of Commons tonight and tomorrow, and it could also involve our sitting tomorrow. It is desirable, of course, that this matter be drawn to a conclusion quickly and satisfactorily, but the difficulties are not inconsiderable.

In the circumstances, I would now suggest, and I hope there is unanimous consent to the proposal, that the Senate recess, to reassemble at the call of the bell at approximately 5.45 p.m. The normal hour for rising in the House of Commons on Friday is 6 o'clock, and it may

be that before that time there will be word of settlement or word as to whether or not legislation will be necessary.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

Upon resuming at 5.45 p.m.

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, I desire to make a short announcement to the effect that the Government has reached an agreement on terms which have been separating them from the three organizations representing the air traffic controllers of Canada in all airports.

The representatives of the air traffic controllers have agreed to recommend these terms of settlement to their membership and, in the meantime, to withdraw the strike date, which was set for December 20, pending confirmation of the terms of settlement.

For practical purposes, as it affects the Senate, it is not necessary for legislation to be brought down or for the Senate to assemble tomorrow. If there are no questions about the matter—and I doubt that I would be able to answer them all—we will adjourn now.

The Senate adjourned until Monday, December 19, at 3 p.m.
