

INFLATION—SUGGESTED APPLICATION OF
GUIDELINES POLICY TO PROPOSED AIR
CANADA FARE INCREASE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask that great defender of the consumer, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, whether he intends to apply the guidelines policy to Air Canada which, according to reports, is proposing to increase air fares by 10 per cent.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): There have been discussions between Air Canada and the Prices and Incomes Commission, Mr. Speaker. When action is taken there will undoubtedly be a statement from the commission.

[Translation]

INFLATION—JOINT STUDY OF EFFECTIVE
PRICE CONTROLS

Mr. Pierre De Bané (Matane): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs tell the House whether he intends to propose, in co-operation with the Prices and Incomes Commission, some effective form of price control?

[English]

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think the Prime Minister made it clear a number of times that in so far as that question is concerned, all options are open.

PROPOSED SIX PER CENT WAGE GUIDELINE—
SUGGESTED CORRECTION OF HOURLY RATE
FIGURES USED BY PRIME MINISTER

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he would take an opportunity to check the figures which he used in speeches at the weekend, Mr. Speaker. The latest Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures for wages of industrial workers show them to be 30 cents an hour higher than the figure the Prime Minister quoted, whilst the figures for postal workers are in fact 30 cents lower. I wonder if the Prime Minister would check these figures.

POST OFFICE

POSSIBLE NATIONAL STRIKE—GOVERNMENT
WAGE OFFER

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): I should like to direct a question to the right

Inquiries of the Ministry

hon. Prime Minister about negotiations with postal workers and the continuing rotating strikes. Can the Prime Minister advise if the Treasury Board spokesman representing the government in the negotiations is now prepared to go as far as Judge Lippé did in his recommendations on the matter of wages some time ago?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. I am not conversant with the latest details of the negotiations, and I cannot say what exact offers have been made by both sides, but there has been no blanket authorization of that kind given to Treasury Board by the government.

SOCIAL SECURITY

TABLING OF WHITE PAPER—SUGGESTED INTERIM INCREASE IN OLD AGE PENSIONS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of his statement to the House on Friday that the white paper on social security would be tabled before the end of the present session, is it still the minister's intention to introduce interim increases for old age pensioners before the tabling of the white paper?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Baldwin: Is the government considering it?

Mr. Marshall: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can we take it from the minister's answer that his recommendation to cabinet that interim increases be granted to old age pensioners has been turned down by his colleagues?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. McGrath: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I trust that the hon. member's supplementary question is supplementary to the first question asked, which was in order.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister something he did not make clear in his answer. Will the white paper be tabled before the House adjourns?

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, I indicated on Friday to the hon. member that I expected, in all probability, the white paper would be