

Inquiries of the Ministry

phasing out of unemployment insurance for fishermen, and will he refer this matter to the fisheries committee?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, this matter was referred to in the white paper tabled by the Minister of Labour. We will certainly be discussing it with fishermen, representatives of the fishermen and the industry during the coming months.

AIR CANADA

REPORTED TRANSFER OF PILOTS AND STEWARDESSES BASED IN WINNIPEG

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. On May 22 I asked him if he would seek from Air Canada the assurance that a large number of pilots and an even larger number of stewardesses would not be transferred from Winnipeg to other bases in this country. The minister said he would endeavour to obtain that assurance. Has he yet obtained it?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Air Canada advises there will be no significant change in the personnel stationed at Winnipeg. The problem, if there is one, arises because of the phasing out of the Viscount aircraft and the use primarily of DC-9 aircraft. In the change-over it is anticipated that virtually the same number of DC-9 pilots will be required as in the mix between Viscounts and DC-9's. So there will not be any great change there, perhaps only one or two at the most, I am advised.

In so far as the good looking stewardesses are concerned, we are going to leave them there to brighten the scene in Winnipeg indefinitely.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I am afraid I cannot think of a supplementary to that.

[*Translation*]

INDUSTRY

AMENDMENT OF CUSTOMS TARIFF TO PROTECT SHOE MANUFACTURERS—INTEREST OF CONSUMERS

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

In view of the fact that shoe imports which have been tolerated to date place our Canadian

[Mr. McGrath.]

manufacturers on the brink of bankruptcy, can the minister tell us if he intends to recommend that the customs tariff be amended with a view to correcting the situation?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I am at the present time reading the brief submitted by the Shoe Manufacturers Association of Canada. This document contains certain questionable statistics, but in any event we will meet with the representatives of this Association on June 24. Hon. members are invited to attend the first part of the meeting. Following the meeting we will give the matter further consideration and will make our conclusions known as soon as possible.

[*English*]

Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister give the assurance, inasmuch as Canadian consumers, particularly low-income consumers, will be most affected by any ban on imported footwear, that the Canadian Consumers Association will be consulted before any decision is taken?

Mr. Pepin: The government always tries to protect all aspects of the Canadian interest. There is of course no mention of a ban on imports.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—PROPOSED CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND LABOUR ON CONTROL PROGRAM

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Acting Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance, whoever has the knowledge, whether the government has yet reached a decision concerning whether it will convene a conference of labour and business along with government as requested by the CLC in order to try to work out some program upon which government, labour and business can agree with regard to combating inflation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the government has not yet made a decision along these lines, but I can say on behalf of the government that we welcome the willingness of the trade union organizations to meet with the government and to talk seriously about the inflationary problem. It is one that affects all of us, and no one more seriously than the members of trade unions.