

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

of Air Canada to provide employment elsewhere for those employees who may have to move. Thirdly, I have been assured by the chairman of the board of Air Canada that they are prepared to go to the maximum extent to ensure there is fair treatment for these employees. Now, I cannot give my hon. friend a dogmatic or emphatic answer at the moment as to what the outcome of the negotiations will be, but I suggest perhaps the wisest course to follow at the moment is not to anticipate there will be dissatisfaction but hope the Air Canada negotiations with the machinists will be satisfactory.

I do make this commitment. If it should develop that there is a disagreement of major proportion in this regard I, as the responsible minister in this matter, will undertake to remind Air Canada of the commitments that were made to these workers. I will ensure, to the maximum extent it is humanly possible, that in the transfer of employees from one type of work to another there is a minimum of dislocation and that their basic rights, if that is the appropriate term, are protected. In summary, I think I should say it is my inclination at the moment—perhaps my hon. friend feels I ought to go further—to let the negotiations proceed to see how they come out. If they come out satisfactorily then of course there is no further problem. On the other hand, if it does develop there are difficulties, I assure my hon. friend I am prepared to intercede in the manner I have outlined.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Very good.

SOCIAL SECURITY—DISCUSSION WITH QUEBEC GOVERNMENT RESPECTING MEASURE

Mr. Warren Allmand (Noire-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, on May 26 I asked the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro) whether the new welfare program introduced recently in the Quebec legislature as Bill C-26 would qualify for federal financial assistance under the Canada Assistance Plan. I asked this question because, as a Quebecker, I am anxious to see the Canada Assistance Plan implemented in Quebec.

When this house passed the Canada Assistance Plan on July 15, 1966 I was extremely enthusiastic for it. It had been a principal plank in the Liberal party platform in the federal election of 1965 and contained many progressive measures to reform our welfare legislation. As a matter of fact, it contained

many recommendations that had been put forward over a number of years by the Canadian Welfare Council.

As hon. members of this house will recall, among other things, the Canada Assistance Plan provided that the many welfare programs we had in Canada would be replaced by one comprehensive program. It also provided we would do away with the means test and replace it by a needs test. In addition, it provided there would be certain appeal provisions for those people turned down in their application for welfare assistance. On the whole it was to bring about a much broader, more comprehensive and co-ordinated welfare program in Canada.

I stated that this program, the Canada Assistance Plan, was adopted by this house in 1966. That was approximately three years ago. To my knowledge only two provinces to this date have opted into the program. These two provinces are Saskatchewan and Alberta. When I read that the province of Quebec had brought forward a new program in the form of Bill C-26 I was quite delighted; but of course I regret the habit of many provinces which participate in federal programs of tending to take full credit for the programs once they put them into effect by giving the people of the province the impression that these programs are fully provincial.

I should like to know from the minister whether Bill C-26 will comply with the provisions and standards of the Canada Assistance Plan and whether the federal government would be contributing money to the implementation of this plan. Many of us who are members of parliament know the urgent need for the provinces to opt into the Canada Assistance Plan. We have many examples of persons who are presently unjustly treated by welfare agencies in different provinces, and the quicker this program is introduced the better off they will be.

I would appreciate it if the parliamentary secretary who is appearing for the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro) would tell me, and the people of Quebec, whether Bill C-26 does come under the Canada Assistance Plan and, if so, what parts are involved and to what extent?

• (10:10 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Rosaire Gendron (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand) for his generous concern towards