

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the minister but I understand the question asked was whether he would make a statement. The hon. gentleman has not sought leave of the House to revert to motions. The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS— INQUIRY AS TO OTHER MEASURES

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. As both the consumer price index and the wholesale price index have risen sharply during the past three months, indicating that voluntary restraint has not proven effective in controlling inflation, is it the intention of the government to introduce the other methods to which the Prime Minister referred when he said some time ago that other methods would be used if voluntary restraint did not succeed in controlling inflation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): We are just as distressed as is anyone in this House at this continuing rise. We shall take whatever other steps are required when we decide it is time to do so.

Mr. Hees: As one of those other steps, is the Prime Minister considering the calling together of the leaders of industry and labour and conferring with them and, having pointed out the dire results which will accrue to the economy if inflation continues to increase at the same rate as it is today—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: May I continue my question, please?

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member kindly ask his question?

Mr. Hees: Thank you. I shall be through in a moment. Will the Prime Minister consider using the great prestige of his office and his not inconsiderable persuasive powers to persuade management and labour that it is in their own interest as well as the interest of those they represent and of the country as a whole—

Some hon. Members: Speech.

Mr. Hees: —to keep inflation within reasonable bounds—

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Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a question. If the hon. member would consult citation 171 of Beauchesne's fourth edition he would see that a question should not be asked in the form of a speech, however short.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: I would assume that it applies, also, to a speech, however long.

AIR TRANSPORT

POSSIBLE STRIKE OF TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege and I do so now at the first available opportunity because I first had to check the record in *Hansard*. A few moments ago I asked the Minister of Labour about the role he or his department might play in respect of the problem respecting air traffic controllers. The hon. gentleman indicated to me that this question was raised yesterday and had been answered. In the intervening minutes I have read the relevant portions of the debate, commencing with the motion by the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate at page 2011. The matter is then continued from page 2015 through to page 2017. The only thing that comes in any way close to a response by the Minister of Labour was his answer to a question asked by my seatmate, the hon. member for Fundy-Royal, which dealt with the Woods task force report. I bring this matter to the attention of the House because I suggest the Minister of Labour has given an improper answer to the House and to the country.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to apologize to the hon. gentleman. His questions are usually very objective. Yesterday was not my day in the House. If he will check back a few more pages he will find that I answered the question on Monday.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member is going to check Monday's record I hope he will not want to raise a second question of privilege.

Mr. Hees: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Just as the hon. member rose the Prime Minister was going to answer my question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have to make some progress.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!