

The Budget—Mr. Mongrain

orate and its domestic market decline, when we are spending millions of dollars to try to boost the economy and set up new industries. It would be wise to maintain our existing industries. I therefore ask the government to take steps in order to increase the quota of Canadian consumption supplied with Canadian production. It is now roughly 55 per cent, including all products available. It should be increased to 65 or 70 per cent.

When it is intended to establish quotas, the industry should be advised a few years beforehand, so that it will know where it stands, and will be able to plan their investment budgets and have some idea of the kind of market it can count on. We would render it a tremendous service. In fact, we would prevent it at least from dying; it is a vigorous and open-minded industry, which managed to retrain its workers and modernize its equipment in good time. The others, of course, are still living under that basic law, that is, the survival of the fittest. Some people will always have to give up, as some farmers have. Indeed, while some farmers continue to prosper others are going bankrupt, because they are unable to manage with the means at their disposal.

I have another request to make to the government. At a time when my area, that of Trois-Rivières, located in the heart of the province of Quebec, is on the threshold of a considerable industrial revival, having been designated as a special zone, when the federal government is prepared to give us also a national park, and when we are awaiting the decisions of a Quebec minister who is looking for periods and commas, when we need millions of dollars to get jobs for our people, I wish to call the attention of the government to the fact that Air Canada intends to curtail its daily service to Trois-Rivières.

In the name of the municipal councils, Chambers of Commerce and businessmen at home, I wish to oppose Air Canada's decision very strongly, because we have built an up-to-date 6,000-ft. runway specially for Air Canada. The city has erected an air terminal that numbers among the most beautiful in Canada, whose design is probably the most modern yet. The government has spent considerable amounts of money to install an electronic control tower system designed to guide the landing of big aircrafts.

Many sacrifices have been made for Air Canada. That corporation is not justified, just because its operations are showing a deficit, to cancel its daily flights, and that for the

following reasons: first, the federal government as well as the Trois-Rivières municipality have invested huge amounts of money so that Air Canada would come into that area. Furthermore, the profits of the corporation must not be computed simply on the basis of the tickets sold in Trois-Rivières. Finally, Air Canada certainly brings a large number of people from the metropolitan area of Trois-Rivières, which has a population of 350,000 to 400,000, to go to Montreal by air rather than by car when they go on holidays for one, two or three weeks.

These are profits accumulated by Air Canada but which are not taken into consideration in its computation to see whether the Trois-Rivières air terminal is economical or not, while they should be included because otherwise people will travel by Air France, Eastern Airlines or CP Air. People are under no obligation to travel by Air Canada but the fact that this corporation is there induces them to use its services.

I admit that when I started to travel along distances by air I used Air France planes with much pleasure but today when my friends and I travel by air, we go by Air Canada.

Air Canada has incurred obligations on account of government investments. It gets something out of the advertising made in foreign air terminals as it is a company which is to a certain extent financed by the federal government. Therefore, it should help designated areas to prosper by maintaining its service there.

I ask the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson), as well as the whole cabinet, to use their influence in order that the Trois-Rivières area may keep its airport and so that Air Canada will maintain its daily service there. Moreover, schedules should be drawn up so as to make air travel even more attractive to business men, for instance, who wish to make connections with flights to northwestern Quebec or to other countries.

● (5:30 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to take too much of the time of my colleagues but I would have had things to say about the famous \$200 million. Quite a fuss is made about the whole thing in the province of Quebec and it is used as a means of stirring up the province against the federal government. Such utter irresponsibility.

This is not only irresponsibility but criminal dishonesty in many cases because those