

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, December 16, 1969

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

First and second reports of Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development—Mr. Watson.

[*Editor's Note: Text of foregoing reports appears in today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

CONCURRENCE IN THIRD REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Ovide Laflamme (Montmorency) moved that the third report of the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, tabled in the House on Thursday, December 11, 1969, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

[*English*]

AIR TRANSPORT

POSSIBLE STRIKE OF TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I rise to seek unanimous consent to move a motion under Standing Order 43. I will be as brief as possible.

The problem in respect of which I seek to move the motion is of urgent importance in terms of Canada's position in international affairs. As a result of the multilateral agreement at the 1944 Chicago International Civil Aviation Conference and as a result of approximately 25 bilateral agreements since that date, we as a nation are committed to provide full landing rights in Canada, as well as safe and adequate flight services through our control zones, to member nations under the above-mentioned agreements. Member nations under these conventions are committed to provide reciprocal rights to Canada. Legally, therefore, the member nations under

these international agreements will have the power to deny Canada reciprocal rights should we fail to honour our international commitments, which would be the case in the event of a termination of control services.

If I do have unanimous consent I should like to move, seconded by the hon. member for Peace River—by the hon. member for St. John's East or any hon. member, for that matter:

That the House do consider the urgent and important implications of the impending Canadian Air Traffic Controllers strike and the consequential effects to Canada's reputation by virtue of our international commitments.

• (2:10 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: As the hon. member has pointed out, this motion can be considered by the House at the present time, under the terms of Standing Order 43, only if there is unanimous agreement to proceed on this basis. I shall therefore ask the House whether there is such unanimous agreement.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous agreement. The motion cannot be put at this time.

IMMIGRATION

STATEMENT ON NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, a number of hon. members recently have raised the question of immigration policy with particular reference to a reported decline in the number of immigrants in the first nine months of 1969. I believe I promised I would make some comments on this matter to the House.

While it is true that in absolute terms there has been an over-all decline, especially in immigrants from Europe, I can inform the House that for the year as a whole we can expect a total of some 165,000 arrivals, a decline from last year of about 10 per cent. However, I should point out that this figure still represents the fifth largest immigration movement to Canada in the past 15 years. Indeed, the figure for the first nine months of