

*Increased Cost of Living*

winger cannot support this motion, but a middle-of-the-roader could support it and a left winger could support it. I am going to set out some of the facts in Canada today, particularly in respect of inflation. Before I do so I should like to take a moment to congratulate the minister upon the speech he made this afternoon. I might have thought he was attempting to influence some people to join his philosophy. He has a son in Calgary teaching my daughter, and I have a good deal of difficulty in that regard because she is learning to become a Liberal. I have to try to get her back on the rails. He is a good teacher. I should like to say to the minister that most of us on this side of the house are happy that he is the Minister of Finance and that the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Gordon) has sort of dropped into oblivion now. Perhaps he is going to lead the Liberal party in Ontario.

Today when the minister was speaking he referred to page 69 of the Economic Review of the Economic Council of Canada. I, too, wish to refer to page 69, because I should like to deal with one subject only; that is, the Air Canada strike. I feel this is one of the most important problems facing the nation. The reason I feel it is most important is that since the 15th of this month on the orders of the day I have continually asked questions of the government, particularly the Prime Minister, (Mr. Pearson) the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill) and the Minister of Labour, (Mr. Nicholson). I have received the kind of wishy-washy answers which show the philosophical attitude of these ministers. I enjoyed the minister's philosophy because he referred to the Third Annual Review of Prices, Productivity and Employment and said that the men who prepared this report were men who, in their own capacities in the fields of labour or management, were experts. I agree with that. But philosophy is one thing and practicability is another.

On November 15, as shown at page 9899 of *Hansard*, I asked the Prime Minister this question:

Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the air strike seems to have caused an emergency similar to the railway strike, is the government anticipating bringing in legislation to end the strike similar to that with which they ended the railway strike?

The reply by the Prime Minister was as follows:

Mr. Speaker, I believe the two situations are not the same and I do not think it would help to bring this strike to a conclusion for the government or

[Mr. Woolliams.]

parliament to step in at this time in this way. I hope we will not be required to do so in a strike of this kind.

None of us know particularly what is going on, but we do know that the meetings of labour and management in a monopolistic industry which is a crown corporation are such that the headlines today state:

Air Canada talks fail once more, situation worse.

For once I agree with the leader of the New Democratic party in this regard. When the parties are only meeting for two hours a day and there is a national emergency, but the government says, "Let them take care of it, let us hide it under the carpet for a while. This is no national emergency, it is only Air Canada", then I think the government is not accepting its responsibility. If the minister were sitting in my place, I think he would agree with me that this is an emergency. This is 1966; it is not 1926, 1936 or 1953 when we had the railway strike. Air carriers today, in passenger service, in express and in freight, have somewhat supplanted the railways. I should like to draw an analogy in my own city. In the city of Calgary today, as the minister knows, we have a railway which is trying to get out of the passenger service. They have a station which is so small that it discourages passengers from taking the train. So, Air Canada has a monopoly in the city of Calgary.

• (5:30 p.m.)

I am pleased to see that the Minister of Labour is in his place. The passenger service in Calgary has been pretty well completely taken over by the air carriers. I do not have the exact figures, but I believe that 90 per cent of the people in Canada today travel by air. Here we have the Prime Minister of this country, supported particularly by the Minister of Labour, saying that this is not a national emergency. At the time of the rail strike they were prepared to call parliament back into session to end that strike. I was absolutely in favour of that decision. Yet today, when parliament is sitting, they are prepared to sit out the strike. The Minister of Labour has said that he is so happy they are meeting and negotiating. He said that at least they were talking and that was the policy of the government, to wait out the national emergency. I ask the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Finance to go to any major, urban centre today, where they have most of their support, to find out what the feeling of the average Canadian is in respect of this matter. If they would do so, they would find that the average person living in this area is