

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the privately appointed mediator has also been chairman of the conciliation board which failed to settle the dispute, and in view of the fact that the likelihood of his succeeding now is not very great, would the Minister of Labour inform the house whether he is now prepared, without necessarily asking the parties to appoint a mediator, to start negotiations again, whether or not the strike begins this afternoon?

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, I would prefer to study the report of the three members of the mediation group before making any statement.

AIR TRANSPORT**SASKATCHEWAN—ADDITIONAL SERVICE BY
CANADIAN PACIFIC AIRLINES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. M. Brand (Saskatoon): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question but I am wondering whether it should be addressed to the Minister of Transport. A few days ago in answer to a question of mine about alternate air service for the province of Saskatchewan, and particularly for the city of Saskatoon, the minister said the time was not yet ripe for an alternate service by Canadian Pacific Airlines. Can the minister tell me when the time will be, since we are not going to have any connecting service in my province?

Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson): And Alberta.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I would think that it would be a very inappropriate time to attempt to settle a question of that magnitude.

Mr. Brand: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister aware that all other employees of Air Canada who are not on strike have received letters to the effect that they will get no more salary after midnight, tonight? Is the minister prepared to do anything about this, since this is not common practice in other air lines?

Mr. Pickersgill: I have not yet been informed by Air Canada of what the hon. gentleman says, but he is very probably correct. I shall look into the matter at once.

[Later:]

Mr. L. R. Sherman (Winnipeg South): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport arising out of a question asked by the hon. member for Saskatoon. I should like to ask the minister whether, if the

[Mr. Winkler.]

Air Canada strike comes to pass, permission will be granted to Canadian Pacific Airlines to lay on extra services in order to meet extra travel demands?

Mr. Pickersgill: I do not think it would be appropriate for me to anticipate any request which Canadian Pacific Airlines might wish to make to the Air Transport Board, which has a certain jurisdiction in this matter. I think, perhaps, we ought to allow the due processes of law to operate.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Will the minister make available the good offices of his department to assist Conservative delegates to return home from the conference, should the air strike continue?

Mr. Pickersgill: In welcoming the hon. gentleman back from Moscow and in expressing the hope that he, like my hon. friend the leader of the house, appreciated, while in Moscow, the great superiority of our parliamentary system—when it works well—I can assure him that if he will contribute his bit to getting on with the business of parliament I will do my best to get the Tories out of town as soon as possible.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**ADDRESSING OF OFFICERS ACCORDING TO
ARMY RANKS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): My question is for the Minister of National Defence. Have instructions been issued to or by certain military establishments that officers, both naval and air force, serving at those establishments shall be addressed by their equivalent army ranks. If so, that, of course, is contrary to the National Defence Act.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, but I should like to correct my hon. friend. There is no restriction in the National Defence Act in that regard.

Mr. Harkness: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I do not think the minister's interpretation of the act is correct, but I would ask him to check into what I have previously asked, because my information is that this practice is being carried on at certain establishments.