

LABOUR RELATIONS

PACIFIC WESTERN AIRLINES DISPUTE—ADVERTISEMENTS SEEKING WORKERS IN UNITED STATES

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The Minister is aware that employees of Pacific Western Airlines is in a strike situation with its workers. Is the Minister also aware that this company is advertising in Seattle, Los Angeles, Portland and San Francisco for sheet metal workers and aircraft and avionics technicians, in spite of the fact that Manpower Directive, Chapter 17, specifically states that temporary work authorizations cannot be issued to people from outside of Canada to take the jobs of striking workers?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Minister of Labour, may have more specific details on this subject. I am certainly not aware of individual advertisements which are placed in papers either domestically or internationally by individual firms. However, it is not the mandate of the Department of Employment and Immigration to interfere where there are labour negotiations ongoing or where there are strikes or lock-outs.

● (1500)

ENTRY OF BOEING TECHNICIANS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, Chapter 17 of the Manpower Directive says that you may not issue temporary work authorizations to people from outside the country. That being the case, why was Boeing allowed to send eight Americans to Canada to work on PWA planes during this work stoppage?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that if the Hon. Member knew that negotiations are resuming between the parties to this dispute he would not be asking these questions at this time in a very difficult manner.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deans: You mean when they negotiate you can break the law?

* * *

AGRICULTURE

STABILIZATION PROGRAMS—REQUEST FOR CHANGES

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. He will know that from time to time provincial and federal Governments put in place agricultural stabilization programs because of climatic or economic conditions. In such cases arbitrary lines necessarily need to be drawn. Will the Minister ask his officials to start the process of putting in place individual personal data so that stabilization programs can relate to specific conditions rather

Oral Questions

than regional conditions which, by their nature, tend to be unfair?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I can tell by the nature of the question that the Hon. Member knows exactly what he is talking about. I can assure him that that information is partially available to us now. Our work in designing the amendments to the Crop Insurance Program to provide additional coverage will give us an opportunity to complete exactly what the Hon. Member has requested.

* * *

SOCIAL SECURITY

JANUARY FAMILY ALLOWANCE CHEQUES

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. With increasingly arrogant regularity the Government is using its large majority to run roughshod over the rights of opposition MPs, not only on the floor of the House but in committee, to force closure on Bills dealing with deindexation of family allowances, complex tax laws, and redistribution.

Will the Minister confirm what his officials have told me, that the rates being used for the January family allowance cheques have been set at \$31.58 which reflects the Government's intention to deindex family allowances? In other words, the Government will pass that legislation without worrying about what Parliament and coalition groups have to say. Come hell or high water the Government is going to do what it pleases.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows that the legislation he refers to was announced in the Budget of the Minister of Finance. There was a six-day debate and this House ruled on the Budget through a number of votes. We then had first and second reading of Bill C-70 and the House availed itself of that opportunity for debate. That Bill went to committee where there was an extension of the time originally agreed to in order to deal with the Bill.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Contempt of Parliament.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): The Bill then came back to the House and we were willing to debate it yesterday, but the Liberals moved adjournment of the House. They did not even want to meet and talk.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Epp (Provencher): Then the Hon. Member has the audacity to say we should not pass it. They do not want to work, and they do not want Parliament to meet.