

*Oral Questions***AIR TRANSPORT****POSSIBILITY OF STRIKE OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS—DATE OF CONCILIATION REPORT**

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport or the Minister of Labour. I do not mind which minister answers. Since the air traffic controllers today sought a mandate to authorize a strike, if necessary, to back their current wage demands, may I ask, since I understand the conciliation report is to be handed down by Tuesday, next week, when exactly that report is to come down. Since the controllers will be in a legal position to strike in seven days, what contingency plans has the government made to offset the serious hardships which could be worked on some summer travellers?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to comment on possible consequences of strike action, serious consequences with which we are familiar from our experience one year ago. While conciliation and discussion procedures are continuing, I do not want to intervene. The hon. member assumed correctly that the conciliation report is expected soon.

**Mr. Forrestall:** Mr. Speaker, am I to understand that the minister expects to see the conciliation report by Tuesday, next week?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, although I cannot say the exact date, the latest word I have is that it is expected towards the latter part of the month.

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**BILINGUALISM****RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN PROVINCES FOR EDUCATION IN BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES—POSSIBLE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND PREMIER LÉVESQUE**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. I ask whether he has had correspondence or discussions with Premier Lévesque of Quebec in connection with a matter the Prime Minister dealt with the other day, reciprocal arrangements for education in French and English in the various provinces. Has there been any discussion between him and the premier?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** None whatsoever, Mr. Speaker. But the right hon. gentleman will remember the answer I gave the other day to the kite or balloon being floated in that direction by Minister Laurin.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, there was a degree of uncertainty about the Prime Minister's statement, which is why I asked my question. Was he consulted by Premier Lévesque in the last few days in connection with representations to be made, or being made, to the various provinces in connection with the point raised? I ask him this because I know the close

[Mr. Speaker.]

relationship—they are like two peas in a pod—he enjoys with Lévesque. I wonder if that same spirit of co-operation still continues? Is he aware that the Premier of Quebec is going to communicate with the provinces and advance a proposition similar to that referred to by the Prime Minister?

● (1150)

**Mr. Trudeau:** No, Mr. Speaker. I think my answer was quite clear and still is quite clear. There has been no communication between Premier Lévesque and myself or any of his ministers and myself on any subject remotely linked to the subject raised by the right hon. member. I made it clear when Mr. Laurin alluded to this possibility a few weeks ago. I stated unequivocally the government's position, as I would have if indeed this other pea in the pod had deigned to consult me on it. This is precisely what we proposed to the provinces at Victoria in 1971, that the rights of the linguistic minorities be recognized as a matter of right in the constitution of Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** I went on to say that it was not a bargaining point from our point of view, that two provinces could negotiate; if you do this, we will do that. We consider it as a right for minorities. Not only was this said and done at Victoria, but it was put to the provinces in a succession of meetings and letters with the premiers which culminated in my letter to all the premiers last January, including Premier Lévesque, telling them if they were interested in the fate of the French speaking minorities of the other provinces as other provinces would be concerned with the fate of the English speaking minority in Quebec, we had an answer to that. It was to recognize these rights and entrench them in the constitution. It was not to bargain over the heads of the kids in the schools.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**PRIME MINISTER'S KNOWLEDGE OF LETTERS FROM PREMIER LÉVESQUE TO PROVINCES CONCERNING RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS ON EDUCATION**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Has the Prime Minister received a copy of the letters written by the Premier of Quebec to the various provinces in this connection? I ask him that because he goes back to the Victoria charter. An end was put to that charter because Premier Bourassa, a fellow Liberal in the province of Quebec, did not accept it. Has the Prime Minister been aware of any correspondence between the province of Quebec and the other provinces? If so, does he not think that Lévesque has actually pulled the rug from under him?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I learned of the existence of such letters a couple of hours ago. I have not seen these letters. I probably learned in the same way as the right hon. gentleman. It is known that some of the premiers have received some of these letters by now or at least that Premier Lévesque has tabled them in Quebec City. I have not seen the letters. I know about as much of the content as I