

Inquiries of the Ministry

contained, our standard of living would be reduced I think by at least 25 per cent. Perhaps it would be more than that.

Mr. Lewis: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand the Prime Minister now to say that his statement was to the effect that before Canada's standard of living would be reduced it would have to adopt a completely self-entrenched economy, or is he talking about the control of our economy?

Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker, that is a wrong deduction.

[Translation]

FINANCE

INQUIRY AS TO INCREASE IN NATIONAL DEBT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

In view of the substantial increase in the interest on the national debt in 1966-67, could the Minister of Finance tell us by how much this debt of the Canadian government has increased and under what legislation the minister was authorized to increase such debt?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's question is very interesting, but I do not think it should be asked at this time, and I suggest that he put it on the order paper.

[English]

AIR TRANSPORT

ICAO—REPORTED CRITICISM OF U.S. PROPOSAL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the sharp disagreement which has taken place at the current ICAO conference in Montreal, over the extent of liability to passengers killed or injured in air accidents, and in view of the rather severe criticism by the chief Canadian delegate of the United States policy or proposal, accusing them of high pressure selling tactics impinging on human dignity, has the minister been in contact with his United States counterpart regarding this issue? If he has not, is the minister considering any representations to the United States government in respect of this subject?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, our delegation has been told to take a certain position at the conference where discussions are now taking place.

[Mr. Pearson.]

If there is any amplification that I can give I shall be glad to give it during the consideration of my estimates.

NATIONAL DEFENCECANCELLATION OF ORDER FOR CF-5
SIMULATOR

On the orders of the day:

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Why has the contract for the CF-5 simulator for training purposes in the R.C.A.F. been cancelled?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, it has been determined that the simulator is not required for this aircraft. Amongst its other advantages the CF-5 is such a stable aircraft and so easy to fly that any experienced jet pilot could step right into it and fly it. Therefore the simulator is not needed. There are also financial savings resulting from this fact.

Mr. Harkness: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If all these things are the case, why were they not considered before a contract was let for such a simulator; also, is this not the only fighter aircraft the R.C.A.F. has had for which there has not been a simulator? In addition, is it not a fact that all the air forces of the world have found that a simulator is necessary?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Answer.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE PAYMENTS TO PROVINCES ACCEPTING FEDERAL CONDITIONS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare whether he has considered the implications of the statement made on Friday last by the premier of Ontario with respect to the pattern set by the unconditional payment of federal funds to one province under the opting-out formula, with particular reference to the possibility of Ontario receiving a no-strings attached payment for the purposes of its own medicare scheme. If so, what position does the federal government take with respect to this matter in connection with its suggestion that it will pay one half the costs of a medicare scheme to any province which accepts conditions to be imposed by the federal government?