

We, on this side of the house, are always too pleased to support legislation or any government initiative to help a people in need. But, if poor legislation or an unacceptable project is introduced, we will be equally pleased to expose our views.

I congratulate you, Mr. Prime Minister, on that government initiative which will be appreciated by all the countries of the world. However, I am sorry that 34 days were needed to take the initiative—which I myself requested 34 days ago—especially if we take into account the fact that 6,000 people were dying every day and that the government could have avoided a great number of killings by acting sooner.

Mr. Prime Minister, your work is only starting, since this morning we read in the newspapers that 200 Nigerians had been killed. Furthermore, a press release from the Biafran army indicates that the battle was fierce, that an impressive number of soldiers were killed and that the Biafrans also seized hundreds of English-made rifles and a substantial quantity of ammunition.

If a country such as Great Britain, supported by Canada, on the one hand, can pretend to render service to these people while, on the other hand, it ships arms, I say that this is mass-killing, and therefore, Mr. Prime Minister, you are fully responsible for rescuing a province which wanted to protect its oil wells.

Mr. Speaker: Now that the honourable member has ended his remarks, I would remind him that they should normally be directed to the Chair.

[English]

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

POSSIBLE CHANGE OF AIR CANADA TO PRIVATE COMPANY

Question No. 51—**Mr. Fortin:**

1. Have the federal government and/or Air Canada studied, or are they studying, or will they study the possibility of changing Air Canada into a private company or into a company with mixed ownership and, if so (a) what is the result of these studies (b) will these studies be submitted to Parliament?

2. Has the federal government given instructions concerning this problem to Air Canada and, if so, what was the nature of these instructions?

3. Will the directors of Air Canada appear before the Crown Corporation committees to explain their policy on this matter?

Questions

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):

1. The government is studying all possible options of corporate structure for Air Canada. This is a general study, however, and because of the broad policy issues involved will require considerable time to complete. No immediate policy change is contemplated and it is therefore premature to consider what action, if any, should result from the studies.

2. The federal government has not given any instructions to Air Canada concerning the question raised in Item 1.

3. As there is no new policy on this subject, it is not contemplated that the directors of Air Canada would appear before the crown corporations committee to discuss this matter.

APPOINTMENTS OF FORMER LIBERAL MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES

Question No. 57—**Mr. Diefenbaker:**

1. How many Liberal Members of the last Parliament and Liberal Candidates in the last election have been appointed to positions in Government, Civil Service, or to Government Boards since 25th June?

2. What are the names of such persons, and to what positions were they respectively appointed?

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): 1 and 2. Neither candidates for election to the House of Commons nor members of the house are required to declare a party affiliation. Consequently, there is no record under the administrative responsibility of the government of Canada from which an answer to this question can be drawn.

APPOINTMENTS OF FORMER MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES

Question No. 71—**Mr. Coates:**

1. How many former Members of Parliament, either retired or defeated in the general election of June 25, 1968, have been appointed to positions with the Government of Canada, what are the names of the individuals in question, to what positions were they appointed and in each instance what was the annual salary involved with each appointment?

2. How many individuals who were unsuccessful candidates in the general election of June 25, 1968, have been appointed to positions with the Government of Canada, what are the names of the individuals in question, to what positions were they appointed and in each instance what was the annual salary involved with each appointment?

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): 1. The following information has been supplied to me: (a) Mr. James A. Byrne, member, im-