

when trade talks on that subject are going to resume between Canada and the United States?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I have indicated on earlier occasions that, although the automobile industry is a very important industry from the point of view of the whole strategies approach, I am not in a position at this stage to indicate when those talks will resume, but I hope it will be very shortly.

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[Translation]

#### REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

##### LOWER ST. LAWRENCE AREA—INQUIRY RESPECTING STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare.

In view of the statements the minister made at Matane over the weekend to the effect that the Lower St. Lawrence region should get more assistance from the central government, can he tell us whether he intends to formulate or to have the government formulate a new investment policy for that area?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I would ask the hon. member to refer to what I said: he will then realize that he is not quoting me exactly.

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[English]

#### AIR CANADA

##### ROTATING STRIKES BY MACHINISTS—GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Labour. Does the absence of the Minister of Labour indicate that the government is now involving itself directly in the Air Canada machinists dispute which is crippling the system and which has struck Montreal today?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, not necessarily, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Gallagher is acting in his proper capacity. The minister himself is having meetings at this time with his officials on the subject of the strike.

**Mr. McGrath:** In view of the fact the federal mediator has met today separately with both sides to the dispute, is the Prime Minister able to report on those meetings and tell us whether the situation is any closer to settlement at this time?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, at this time we find it preferable not to make any public statement on the state of the negotiations. As the Minister of Transport said late

#### Oral Questions

last week, it is not helpful to negotiations to make them public at each stage.

##### STRIKE BY FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES AT WINNIPEG—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister a supplementary, or at least a parallel question. Is the government in a position to make any statement regarding the dispute between Air Canada and the Canadian Airline Employees Association? I am referring to the difficulties between the company and the finance branch employees.

**Mr. Charles Turner (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, the question is under advisement in the Department of Labour and officials are working on it now.

##### ROTATING STRIKES BY MACHINISTS—MAINTENANCE OF ADEQUATE SAFETY STANDARDS

**Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport. Can the minister inform the House what, if any, special precautions are being taken by his department to ensure that adequate safety standards are being maintained during these rotating strikes?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, definitely.

**Mr. Baldwin:** That was a truly bilingual answer.

##### STRIKE BY FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES AT WINNIPEG—PROCEDURE FOR COLLECTING SHARE OF TICKET MONEY FROM OTHER AIRLINES

**Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport with regard to the strike. With the Canadian Airline Employees Association on strike and the finance department in Winnipeg closed, how is Air Canada billing and collecting its share of ticket moneys from other airlines? I understand there are deadlines as to when these moneys, amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars, can be collected.

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I will inquire of Air Canada and inform the hon. member as to how they are proceeding.

**Mr. McKenzie:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary with regard to the question of safety. Is the flight performance quality control recording for Air Canada aircraft being properly reviewed with the Winnipeg office closed?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** I think so, Mr. Speaker.