

the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs tell the House if he is prepared to give an assurance that Bill C-2, amending the Competition Act, will make provision to ensure that children who wish to participate in amateur sports in this country are not restricted?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, for a rather long time now, I have been asking that this bill be concurred in. I am happy to see that the hon. member is willing to support me, so that this bill might be brought back to Parliament as soon as possible and adopted.

[English]

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege arises from an earlier exchange between myself and the Minister of Transport on his question of privilege when he said that he did not give orders to the RCMP to do anything in the matter of the Hamilton harbour inquiry. On February 27, as recorded at page 3622 of *Hansard*, the minister stated:

Oh, yes, there are answers. First, I must inform the House in connection with this matter . . .

Referring to the Hamilton matter.

. . . I probably should have done this before, but I did not have the complete file before me—that I am the one who, in January 1973, two years ago, ordered the RCMP to inquire into alleged Hamilton irregularities.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nowlan: On March 4, 1975, as recorded at page 3754 of *Hansard*, on the question of who did what to whom and when, the minister, when asked about the letters which he said he would gladly table, said:

The letter I have here is written to the Commissioner, RCMP, Ottawa, Ontario . . .

And he gives the postal code.

There is real confusion as to what the dates of the letters were, and at one time the minister said that a publication of the letters would prejudice innocent people. I suggest that to clarify once and for all who did what to whom, the minister should table the letters, deleting the names of those who have not yet been charged. This would at least clarify this one fact in the murky picture.

An hon. Member: Better stick to driving.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, during the debate on the letters and the intervention of the federal government and the Department of Transport, there was a misunderstanding which I clarified with the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham.

[English]

Mr. Lawrence: You confused it; you didn't clarify it.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): The hon. member may infer what he wishes, but the fact is that he wrote me a letter and wanted me to tell him exactly what letters I sent to whom. This has been done because he sent me a letter, and probably five minutes later he gave the letter to the newspapermen, and I did about the same. I took ten minutes, not five.

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): The simple confusion is that there was a letter in the file prepared in the department, but that was never sent, and I did not know at that time when I gave the date in the House. After that I wrote an answer because the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham wrote to me and asked what the letters were. I answered him publicly, and all this is in the public record. I said after that that if the whole answer is read it can be seen that I wrote to the Solicitor General of Canada, not to the RCMP, in order to ask for an inquiry.

Mr. Lawrence: You don't know what you did when.

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POST OFFICE

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO SETTLE DISPUTES WITH EMPLOYEES

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. In view of the considerable experience of the Postmaster General in dealing with labour relations which, as he has stated, was the key consideration in his appointment as Postmaster General, and in view of the rapid deterioration of the Canadian postal service as it continues to be torn by illegal strikes and now a postal code boycott, will the minister advise the House and the people of Canada what action he is taking to settle the current disputes and how soon he expects that they will be settled? Can the minister say how he will attempt to guarantee that these disputes, so costly to the country, will be halted in future?

● (1500)

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, there is one illegal strike at the moment and that is in Montreal. What little experience I have had in the field of labour has convinced me that the worst possible way of settling an illegal dispute is to be blackmailed and I do not intend to do that. The strike in Montreal is illegal and I have ordered the suspension of certain militants in the organization. I have appealed to the people of Montreal to bear with me and, if necessary, keep that Post Office closed for months in order, once and for all, to clean out of the Post Office those who prefer to draw money and not do an honest day's work.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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INDUSTRY

COLLAPSE OF MICROSYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF REASON AND ASSURANCE NORTHERN ELECTRIC NOT ALLOWED TO APPLY LOSSES INCURRED AGAINST PROFITS

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce with respect to the collapse of Microsystems International which will throw 500 families