

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

**LABOUR RELATIONS****WITHDRAWAL OF C.N.T.U. FROM  
FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Labour. Would he comment on the C.N.T.U. decision to withdraw from all federal organizations?

**Mr. Speaker:** I wonder if the hon. member can be allowed to put his question in this manner, that is, ask the minister to comment on a decision which has been taken. I submit that the question could be formulated differently.

**Mr. Asselin (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, I will put my question differently. Is the Minister of Labour considering action which could bring the C.N.T.U. to reconsider its decision to withdraw from all federal organizations?

[English]

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, as I stated in the house on Thursday last, if such decision were taken—and I understand that it was taken on Friday—it would be a matter that I would regret very much. I most certainly will be discussing this development with officials of the C.N.T.U.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Labour.

Can the minister inform the house if a decision may be expected shortly from the ministerial committee appointed to examine C.N.T.U. representation within the C.L.R.B.?

[English]

**Mr. Nicholson:** Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I can give no such assurance. I did refer the matter, as I said I would do, to the chairman of the committee after the question was raised in the house last week.

**AIR CANADA****IMMINENCE OF STRIKE ACTION—EFFORTS  
THROUGH PRIVATE MEDIATION**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Labour. In view of reports of an imminent strike by employees of Air Canada this afternoon, can the Minister of Labour tell the house whether there is any possibility of averting this strike?

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**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the probability is that the strike cannot be averted. I must say that there has been in this case an unusual turn of events. Private mediation in the dispute war arranged by the parties, not by the Department of Labour. This mediation began on Wednesday of last week and continued until late yesterday afternoon. Actually my department had no official word on the subject at all until this morning.

I did receive some informal information late last night, as a result of which I dispatched telegrams to the president of Air Canada and to the vice president of the union concerned suggesting a possible delay. However, wires recently received from the two sides indicate that the strike will proceed this afternoon.

**Mr. Starr:** A supplementary question. In view of this grave situation would the minister consider calling the parties together to negotiate a settlement, so that this strike will not be one of those prolonged strikes with which we in this country have been plagued during the past year?

**Mr. Nicholson:** Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say that there have not been that many prolonged strikes that have been the responsibility of the federal government. However, I do want to say this. I have asked for—though I am not yet certain whether I am entitled to receive it—a copy of any report made by mediators who were privately appointed and paid. As soon as I have a copy of this report available I will study it, along with officials of my department, and will no doubt be discussing it with some of my colleagues. But until I get a copy of this report it is difficult to say what action may be taken or be necessary.

**Mr. Starr:** A further supplementary question. Is the minister saying that he is going to sit by and wait until the report reaches him, or is he going to go out and get a copy?

**Mr. Nicholson:** Mr. Speaker, I have already asked for a copy of the report.

**Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce):** A supplementary question. In view of the national crisis that exists, I think the minister should also agree with the suggestion made by the hon. member for Ontario, call the parties to the capital and settle the issue. We recall the situation created by the rail strike, and this step would assist in averting the crisis. Would the minister not do that?