

This will go a long way in alleviating the difficulties created as a result of the burning of the bridge.

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[Translation]

### PENITENTIARIES

#### INQUIRY WHETHER INVESTIGATION WILL BE HELD INTO ESCAPE OF TWO INMATES

**Mr. Carlo Rossi (Bourassa):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Solicitor General I shall put my question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Is an investigation taking place at present, or going to take place, following the escape of two dangerous inmates who were held prisoner in a federal institution in Quebec, and what measures does the government intend to take to avoid such incidents and protect people?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I regret to say that I am not in a position to answer the question of the hon. member. Later today I will see the Solicitor General and seek a precise answer to the two questions put by the hon. member.

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### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

#### INQUIRY WHETHER COMMISSIONER'S REPORT WILL BE REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE

**Mr. Serge Joyal (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. Considering that when the Prime Minister was sitting on this side of the House he expressed several times his intention and agreement to refer the report of the Commissioner of Official Languages to a joint committee of the Senate and the House, and considering that that commitment has been renewed in the Speech from the Throne delivered last October 9 by the Governor General of Canada, is the Prime Minister prepared to refer immediately to a joint committee of the Senate and the House the report tabled by the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada in March, 1979, and not wait for the tabling of the next report which will be presented to the House in March, 1980?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I share the hon. member's interest in the discussion of Mr. Yalden's report by a parliamentary committee. I would be prepared to agree to a referral of the last report for consideration by such a committee without waiting for the presentation of the next report.

**Mr. Joyal:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question. Could the Prime Minister say whether he

### Oral Questions

intends to refer that report to a committee of the House or whether it will be sent to a joint committee made up of representatives of both Houses?

**Mr. Clark:** Mr. Speaker, we intended to set up a committee of this House, but I would be willing to consult the hon. member and other members, and if there is a consensus to set up a joint committee made up of members of the House of Commons and of the Senate, it would be acceptable to the government.

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[English]

### AIR TRANSPORT

#### AIR RADIO OPERATORS' WALKOUT—REQUEST MINISTER INTERCEDE IN DISPUTE

**Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of the serious nature of the illegal walkout by air radio operators, and in light of the crash at Cranbrook, can the minister inform the House what action he is taking? Will he involve himself within the scope of his responsibilities to bring this serious situation under control in so far as air safety is concerned?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, first I would like to point out that under the provisions of the collective agreement, designated employees are obligated and required by law to carry out certain prescribed functions. The fact that employees are not doing that indicates that they are breaking the law.

Reference has also been made to the fact that there have been some alleged violations of safety and security. These alleged violations have been brought to my attention, and they are being looked into. Officials of my department have investigated all the incidents which have been reported, and they have indicated that there has been no substance in so far as any alleged violations of safety and security are concerned. There are slowdowns and some cancellations. About 15 stations are not operating at the present time, but essentially all operations are safe, although somewhat abnormal. Safety and security are not being compromised, according to the reports I have been receiving from my officials.

**Mr. Harquail:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the seriousness of the safety aspect of this whole question, will the minister indicate to the House that he will at least consult his seatmate, the Minister of Labour, to see if some action can be taken to alleviate this serious safety concern of the travelling Canadian public?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, I understand that a mediator is meeting individually with both parties. Of course I will consult my colleague, the Minister of Labour. I will consult, also, my colleague, the President of the Treasury Board, because we view this as a very serious matter.