

Oral Questions

An hon. Member: Explain.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Just give me a chance.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Will the Prime Minister tell the House whether he intends to make any concrete proposals to the western provinces next week which will assure a satisfactory supply of Canadian produced foodstuffs to consumers without forcing the farmer to bear the whole burden of feeding Canadians at a reasonable cost?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the subject of agriculture will be very much on the agenda, and I am sure the western agricultural ministers will get pretty far with our Minister of Agriculture who has their great respect.

FEED GRAINS PRICES—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION TO CONTROL

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to that asked by the hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway and is also directed to the Prime Minister. Will the government not take action to control farm feed prices at a level economic to farm pork producers, and thus to consumers of the end product as well?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, not now.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

DISPUTE WITH NON-OPERATING RAILWAY EMPLOYEES—POSSIBLE STRIKE—SUGGESTED INTERVENTION OF MINISTER

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact a rail strike could legally take place on July 21, and in view of the fact that parliament will probably be adjourned on July 20,—

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. McGrath: I am only going by what I have heard through the usual channels, Mr. Speaker—may I ask the minister whether he is prepared to tell the House what the government proposes to do in respect of this national strike which could have such serious economic consequences across the country, and perhaps thereby take the House into his confidence?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the government intends to do everything possible to bring the parties together in order to solve this dispute.

Mr. Hees: In due course.

[Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway).]

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): I would ask the hon. member whether he would recommend any other course.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, in view of the minister's statement, may I ask whether he is prepared to adopt the practices established by his predecessor and personally intervene in order to settle this dispute which could have serious consequences across the country?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Of course I am.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister when he proposes to personally intervene to bring the two parties together, since the strike could take place three days hence.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the parties do not meet until tomorrow to make their findings known in respect of the conciliation board report it seems highly unlikely the hon. member would recommend that I intervene, particularly when the parties have not invited me to do so, unless he hopes that my intervention will fail.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: What a mean thing to day.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

SEA KING HELICOPTERS—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE OF AIRWORTHINESS—POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence and arises from a highly regrettable series of incidents involving Sea King helicopters on the east coast. In view of the most recent grounding of these aircraft, and the safety checks that have been made, I wonder if the minister can reassure those who fly them, and their wives, that these particular pieces of air equipment are indeed airworthy and safe?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, it is correct that one of our Sea King helicopters did have a technical difficulty, but this turned out to be an isolated incident and does not reflect in general on the airworthiness of the Sea King. We did ground them all until there was an opportunity to establish individual engineering clearances, and I can assure the hon. member that none of these helicopters will fly without such clearance.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that these particular pieces of equipment are at or beyond their normal life, can the minister indicate whether the government is giving any consideration now to the replacement of this equipment?

Mr. Richardson: Not specifically, Mr. Speaker.