

Oral Questions

● (1410)

[English]

ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

PROPOSED REVIEW BY BOARD OF HALL REPORT ON
CONTRACT OF AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS GROUP—MOTION
UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In light of the fact that the Anti-Inflation Board has rejected the carefully reasoned judgment of Mr. Justice Emmett Hall on the wage recommendations concerning the Treasury Board and Aircraft Operations group contract and as the AIB has ignored the amended Section S-67 of the AIB regulations which allows increases over the \$2,400 ceiling in special cases, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling):

That this House direct the Minister of Finance to instruct the chairman of the Anti-Inflation Board to implement an immediate review of the Justice Hall report and provide a complete written statement to the Treasury Board and the striking aircraft safety inspection group on their findings.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Standing Order 43 requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

POSSIBILITY OF LEGISLATION GOVERNING INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS IN VIEW OF STRIKES—CONSULTATIVE
ARRANGEMENTS WITH LABOUR CONGRESS

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Having regard to the growing number of industrial disputes which have been witnessed in this country, particularly in the public sector, since the establishment of wage and price controls, will the Prime Minister advise whether it is the intention of the government to introduce legislation governing industrial relations following the summer recess?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to bring back before the House the matter of the Public Service Staff Relations Act, but I do not plan to go into any detail. This, as the House knows, is the kind of thing that is dealt with at the time of the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Mazankowski: Inasmuch as the CLC seems to have committed itself to a withdrawal from the existing consultative mechanism with regard to establishing government labour relations in this country, at least until the control period ends, what sort of consultative arrangements are being considered by the government during this period?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I must disagree with the premise of the hon. member's question. The CLC has been meeting with the government. We had a meeting about ten days ago. We are planning one in about another ten days for a whole day and perhaps even two days. Therefore, there is certainly an indication by the CLC that they are interested in discussing with the government the future of this country.

ALLEGED DISCREPANCY BETWEEN MINISTER'S FIGURES AND OFFICIAL STATISTICS ON MAN-DAYS LOST AS RESULT OF STRIKES

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Labour, I will direct my question to the Minister of Finance. As man-days lost as a result of strikes are up to two million in the first three months of 1976, representing an increase of 60 per cent over 1975, and as the Minister of Labour said in the House on June 17 that man-days lost are decreasing, can the Minister of Finance explain the discrepancy between the figures and opinions of the Minister of Labour and those of official government statistics?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to bring the hon. member's argument to the attention of my colleague.

Mr. Ritchie: Has the minister any statistics to bear out the claim made by the Minister of Labour that the anti-inflation program has substantially reduced the number of man-days lost in view of the figures for the first quarter which indicate that the opposite is the case?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): It seems to me the hon. member is making the same argument over again.

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HEALTH

MERCURY POISONING—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON
MONITORING OF HEALTH OF NATIVES IN AREA AFFECTED

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare and supplementaries for the ministers of manpower and environment. Bearing in mind the inadequacy of fast responses by the government to the dangers of mercury poisoning, and now that the presence of the dread Minamata disease has been confirmed in the Grassy Narrows Indian Reserve for the first time in Canada, I ask the minister whether the federal government is now prepared to conduct an intensive and ongoing monitoring of the health of the people in the area affected, including regular blood tests, so that individuals may be advised of the danger of mercury poisoning as it pertains to their own case histories?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the hon. member does not seem aware of all the measures which have been taken already during recent months in this field in the whole Grassy Narrows area. Those measures have already