

soon as possible authorize legally what has been the practice for a long time, namely the use of French where it is possible both by pilots and air controllers and considering that—

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member has a question, he should ask it now.

Mr. De Bané: Agreed, Mr. Speaker. Considering that the Commissioner of Official Languages states that the Air Transport Association of Canada always reacted with slackness to criticism, I would like to ask—

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ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

APPEALS TO CABINET FROM DECISIONS OF BOARD—REASON FOR FAILURE TO HEAR GROUPS OTHER THAN POSTAL WORKERS

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, I should like to get back to the box into which the government has built itself.

Some hon. Members: Question, question.

Mr. Lawrence: In view of the growing impression throughout the country that the restraint program is being administered in a very unfair way—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Welcome back to the House.

An hon. Member: Did you have a nice holiday?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lawrence: In view of the fact that the Prime Minister has already said this afternoon—

Some hon. Members: Question, question.

● (1430)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is the fourth time during the question period we have had difficulty with preambles. If hon. members wish, we can have a dozen members with long preambles and few questioners. That is not the spirit of the question period. I will once again ask all hon. members to please respect the notion that the question ought to be put directly. This is the question period and is not the time to make any kind of a speech by way of a preamble. Would the hon. member please put the question.

Mr. Lawrence: Then, obviously—

Some hon. Members: Question, question.

Mr. Lawrence: Will you let me get it out?

An hon. Member: Get it out.

Mr. Lawrence: Obviously, the question period would be shorter if there were not so many interruptions. My ques-

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tion is directed to the Prime Minister. Sir, I cannot even get the question out.

Some hon. Members: Question, question.

Mr. Lawrence: My question is for the Prime Minister. Sir, this is about the fourth time I have tried and cannot get it out.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have no difficulty hearing the hon. member.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lawrence: Perhaps, Sir, the Throne should be moved down to this end. My question to the Prime Minister is simply this: if special consideration is being given by the cabinet to an appeal in respect of the postal workers, why cannot it be given to other groups which are affected by the decision of the Anti-Inflation Board.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Well, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman referred to the law which has been discussed at some length in this House—

Mr. Lawrence: It is not yet the law.

Mr. Trudeau:—he will see that the whole tenor of the law is that the cabinet has some final say in cases which are referred to it. The hon. member refers to this as putting the government in a box. This perhaps shows his own mentality. In our case, we find that as a practice the government frequently has to reconcile the divergent interests of one sector of the economy and try to measure them against the necessity of guaranteeing the pursuance of the common interest.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is simply this: will the Prime Minister and his cabinet immediately entertain an appeal on behalf of the dispute of the Metro Toronto teachers—that is what is being done in respect of the postal strike—and if not, why not?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I must correct the hon. member. We are aware of statements which have been made in both these instances. I made it quite clear in an earlier answer to the hon. member's leader that the cabinet was not considering the position of the Anti-Inflation Board but that it would if a reference were made to us in the proper form which is foreseen either under the law or under the Inquiries Act in the present state. Of course, we will do this in other cases where reference is made to us in the proper way.

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PENITENTIARIES

GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO PREVENT ESCAPES—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. On November 25 I directed a number of questions to the Solicitor General with regard to escapees from the peniten-