

of April 13, 1981, where Mr. D. Johnston and Mr. A. MacEachen were there in Treasury Board. Would he table the minutes of that Treasury Board meeting, because that would clear up the situation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, would it really clear up the situation? Would the Hon. Member stop worrying if those minutes were tabled? Would that settle the matter? If I knew this, I might even be prepared to consider his question.

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF PETRO-CANADA DOCUMENTS, AND TELEPHONE BILLS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, the question to the Prime Minister is how can we know? It appears that the Prime Minister is withholding or hiding information. This is the 18-minute gap in the tapes, if you like.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Waddell: I direct this supplementary to the Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister wants to come clean, will he table those minutes, and will he table the minutes of the Petro-Canada documents from May 27, 1980, to October 29, 1980, and, third, the telephone bills that are referred to in these documents that are not appended? Those are the missing documents in this case. If the Prime Minister wants to clear this matter up, as he said, is he prepared to table those particular documents?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member talks of telephone bills. If there are telephone bills which are available and they are relevant, I will make sure they are tabled. However, if he is asking that I table a minute of Cabinet, a minute of Treasury Board or a minute of the Committee of Cabinet, the answer is no. There has never been any precedent for tabling minutes of Cabinet, and I do not intend to create it. There was one exception when access was given to a non-member of Cabinet to Cabinet minutes. That was the McDonald Commission. There was an allegation of criminal action there, and none was found, of course. If the Hon. Member wants to allege criminal action, if he wants to go outside the House and make that allegation—

Mr. Broadbent: Come on.

Mr. Trudeau: I understand. The Leader of the NDP never was and never will be in Government, so he can't—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: I wouldn't sell out and join the Liberals like you.

Mr. Trudeau: He would have liked to in the Spring of 1980, but that did not come to pass.

Madam Speaker: Order.

Mr. Trudeau: That trick has been tried before, to ask Government to table minutes of Cabinet, and it won't succeed.

Oral Questions

LABOUR RELATIONS

EASTERN PROVINCIAL AIRWAYS DISPUTE—REQUEST FOR MINISTERIAL ACTION

Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche): Madam Speaker, I would like to return to the question of the economy in the Atlantic area, having to do with a very serious transportation problem which affects millions of Canadians in that part of the country. I would like to ask for the support of the Minister of Transport on this very serious matter. It has gone on for some weeks, far too long. What is his disposition and that of his officials as to what can be done to bring some early resolution to the conflicts that appear to be going on between the machinists and the pilots and Eastern Provincial Airways?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I have sworn to the Minister of Labour that I will not answer this sort of question any more. Ladies and gentlemen, the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Nielsen: Pass the ball, boys!

• (11:50)

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, this matter has been followed by Labour Canada over the weeks with great concern and, very closely, as we always do, with labour disputes. The dispute began on January 6 and it is my understanding that it is continuing despite our efforts and despite the fact that we are available for mediation services.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

CAPE BRETON COAL AGREEMENT—SUPPORT FOR PROJECT SOUGHT BY ALASTAIR GILLESPIE

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister's guidelines to his Ministers state that they should not lobby their former Departments within two years after they leave Government service. To "lobby" is defined in the Oxford Dictionary as "to solicit the support of". Would the Prime Minister tell me what he thought Mr. Gillespie was doing, with the knowledge of Ministers in December of 1980, when he wrote "Dear Mickey", to Mr. Cohen, a person of influence in the Government, "We need your assistance and support for the project", which afterwards was to realize him many, many tens of thousands of dollars in fees and payments, as we have seen last night? Does he consider that to be lobbying, or is that not lobbying, or is it discussions with Mr. Read of the Department—would that be lobbying, or discussions with Ministers? Are these activities lobbying, or are they not?