

## FISHERIES

CALL FOR MORATORIUM ON WHALING—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster):** Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that the International Whaling Conference commences in London on June 26 of this year, in view of Canada's failure in the past to support a moratorium in spite of worldwide scientific support for such a moratorium, in view of the decimation of the North Pacific sperm whale by Russian and Japanese fisheries, and in view of Canada's role in allowing a massive increase in North Pacific sperm whale quotas, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn):

That the Canadian delegation to the London conference be instructed to end its support for whaling and to support a ten-year moratorium so that this magnificent creature can have some chance of survival.

**Mr. Speaker:** Presentation of such a motion requires unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

## AIR CANADA

## POSSIBLE STRIKE OF PILOTS

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Labour is not in the House today, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Transport. My questions deal with the potential Air Canada strike, which is a very serious issue and will affect business, travel and tourism to quite an extent if it is allowed to go ahead. Will the Minister of Labour or the Minister of Transport personally intervene in the dispute to try to get both sides to the bargaining table once again?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour is offering various services to the parties in this dispute. He and I share the view, which I am sure is shared by all hon. members, that it would be very unfortunate for a disruption of travel plans to occur and to do damage to many Canadians, particularly in a year when so many more seem to be planning to travel in Canada. I presume that all hon. members share the view that the parties ought to be urged to bring this dispute to an early conclusion.

**Mr. Murta:** Mr. Speaker, the minister started off on the wrong foot: he did not answer my question. Does the government intend to intervene in this dispute, presumably through the Minister of Labour or the Minister of Transport?

## Oral Questions

● (1417)

**Mr. Lang:** I did answer that question, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Labour is directly involved. I do not choose to use the hon. member's word "intervene", but I do not think I should.

**Mr. Murta:** As the minister knows, the dispute arose over the status of the letter of intent signed by Air Canada at the time of the last contract negotiations. Has the minister had any consultations with the president of Air Canada on whether he intends to honour the provisions of the document and, if so, would he indicate to the House what discussions he has had in the last 24 hours with the president of Air Canada and what Air Canada intends to do in this regard?

**Mr. Lang:** I have had discussions with the president, but I do not think it would be useful for me to attempt to take part in the negotiations. I think it is best if Air Canada's position and the pilots' position are put to the public by those parties to the extent necessary. I will content myself with the hope, with regard to both sides of the dispute, that a solution is found so that inconvenience is not caused to Canadians.

## MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PARTIES IN DISPUTE

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Am I to take it from the response of the Minister of Transport that he does not intend to intervene? Does he not intend to meet with the officials of Air Canada, because the threat of a strike would be disastrous to the country? Last time Air Canada struck, they lost \$22 million. Also, will the minister undertake to meet the president of Air Canada to discuss possible contingency plans in the event a strike is called? Will he also undertake to assure the many people who have arranged charter flights that other arrangements might be made or, at the minimum, that they will be refunded their fares?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I do not have any magic solutions in the event that a strike occurs. There is no doubt that such an event would cause a good deal of harm and inconvenience to many people. However, I do not think it would be helpful for me to attempt to get into the dispute in a public way. The Minister of Labour, through very senior officials, will be directly involved today in the matter and I think that is where the government's role should rest for the moment. In the meantime, there is a burden on both parties to attempt to find a solution in the next day or two, if possible, so that plans need not be in jeopardy even ahead of the time when they would be interfered with.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I am advised that the president of Air Canada has formally requested that the Minister of Labour intervene in the dispute. I ask the Minister of Transport, as the spokesman for Canada's national airline, whether he will, in effect, offer his services in the negotiations and in the discussions that may take place so that this matter may be resolved. Using the clout of these two ministers, perhaps we will be able