

● (1440)

Mr. Rowland: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Transport. Again it is in two parts because of the answer from the Minister of Labour. Will the Minister of Transport, in relation to the fact that non-union personnel are being employed in a strike situation, ask Air Canada to cease and desist from this practice? Second, will the minister assure the House that there will be no further reduction in the number of Air Canada personnel employed in Winnipeg, which is one of the matters that are concerning the finance section at the moment?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the first part of the question, I had a report this morning from Air Canada because someone put the same question to me yesterday. Nobody outside Air Canada has been hired in Winnipeg. I do not say that some are not working because 45 strikers went back to work and now have their jobs, but no one was hired to replace the strikers. What is the second part of the hon. member's question?

Mr. Rowland: Mr. Speaker, one of the fears expressed by union representatives is that—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would hope we would not spend the rest of the question period on this matter. Instead of asking two questions in one, it would be easier, more proper and according to practice for hon. members to ask a question and then, if they are recognized for that purpose, to ask a supplementary. The hon. member may ask a supplementary, following which I will call on the hon. member for Témiscamingue.

Mr. Rowland: The two-question syndrome results from being so far back, I am afraid. One of the fears expressed by the union is that there will be a further reduction in Air Canada's staff in Winnipeg. What I want from the minister is an assurance that this is not the case.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): That is not the case, Mr. Speaker.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

CIP PLANT IN TEMISCAMING—TEMBEC PROJECT—
REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Still concerning the re-opening of the old CIP mill at Temiscaming, we have in fact been witnessing a ball game for the last six months between Quebec and Ottawa. And now—

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member put his question?

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): My question is as follows, Mr. Speaker, but I would like the minister to understand it clearly.

Oral Questions

Last night I received from Quebec a report that all documentation on this subject is on the minister's desk in Ottawa, and that they are waiting for an offer from the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. Can the minister say when an offer shall be made to Quebec, as well as TEMBEC, for the re-opening of the Temiscaming South mills?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the analogy of a baseball game, I think I can reply that we are in the ninth inning.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jamieson: I hope we can get the proposals completely analysed. So far as I know, we will be in a position to respond to the Quebec proposals probably within a matter of a week or ten days.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Would the minister not be able, as he told someone yesterday, to give a decision tomorrow in order to let the people in Temiscaming know what is what concerning this re-opening?

[English]

Mr. Jamieson: No, Mr. Speaker, it is not possible to give a decision tomorrow. There are a great many complexities involved in this subject, as the hon. member knows. I think we have resolved the majority of them, but there are one or two that are quite important. I believe I have given a realistic timetable when I suggest we will be able to complete the decision within a week or ten days.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

QUEBEC—CROP DAMAGE—COMPENSATION FOR
FARMERS

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Following the statement of the president of the Farm Producers Union that the climate in April and May will cause huge crop losses, does the minister intend to help the Quebec farmers as was once the case after, for example, damage caused by rain?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, as I have stated last week, our officials have been in consultation with Ontario officials. They have also discussed crop conditions in Quebec. As the hon. member knows, we do not participate in this program unless requested by the province.