

possible but practical, can the minister advise if a similar study is under way in Canada, or are we co-operating in any manner with regard to this bridge which has tremendous potential economic possibilities for the entire area?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, this giant idea seems to be more of a conception than a proposal. It surfaced first in 1965 and has been discussed, I think, with Ontario. No approach has been made to my department. I am advised by my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, that no approach has been made to his department. If it comes to reality then, of course, it will be very important to Canada. An approach will have to be made through the Department of External Affairs because of the fact of traversing Canadian inland waters.

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TRADE

ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT OVERSEAS OFFICES TO PROMOTE GRAIN SALES

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the expression of views by the Canada Grains Council concerning the maintenance of permanent overseas offices to develop market information and grain sales, have there been in the past or are there now officials of his department permanently stationed in overseas offices who have a responsibility in this area?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that his question well might be placed on the order paper, or he may prefer to have it considered at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Benjamin: In light of the views expressed yesterday by the Grains Council, can the minister advise if the government is giving any consideration to maintaining either governmental or non-governmental, non-profit offices overseas to develop additional grain sales?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): To make it short, Mr. Speaker, I will only say that all my trade commissioners are working part-time for the Canadian Wheat Board. If more is suggested, we'll look into it.

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[Translation]

AIRPORTS

STE. SCHOLASTIQUE—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTE AFFECTING WORKERS BETWEEN FEDERAL AND QUEBEC GOVERNMENTS

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of Labour, but in his absence I shall direct it to the Prime Minister.

In view of the present problems which interfere with the construction of the airport in Ste. Scholastique, could the minister tell us today or shortly whether these prob-

lems come under joint jurisdiction or under provincial jurisdiction only?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would not give a legal opinion, but I wish to be as helpful as possible to the House by explaining that we have funds available, that we have made plans for the new airport and that we have also entered into contracts to ensure the implementation of some of these projects. We want to find the workers needed by those contractors to do their work and if I am well informed such is the federal government's position.

As far as the position of the others involved is concerned, the hon. member should inquire elsewhere. I believe this issue is twofold: there is the conflict between unions and there is the conflict relating to the actual problem of the construction workers which has come up within the Quebec legislation itself.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question I wish to ask the Prime Minister.

Considering that the interest of Canada is still involved, does the Prime Minister intend to meet with the provincial authorities in an effort to find a solution to this problem as soon as possible?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, there have been several meetings between the federal Minister of Manpower and Immigration and the Quebec ministers as well as at the official level. I repeat that the federal position is quite clear. We want to proceed with the construction of this airport and I believe that it is in the best interests not only of workers but also of the population of Quebec as a whole that we should do so, for if the construction of the Toronto airport is more expeditious than that of the Montreal airport, it is only normal that major airlines will seek to change their landing rights and I feel that trade unions especially should consider this problem as urgent.

• (12 noon)

[English]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SENATE AND HOUSE OF COMMONS ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING MEMBERS' SESSIONAL AND EXPENSE ALLOWANCES, ETC.

The House resumed, from Thursday, April 29, consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen that Bill C-242, to amend the Senate and House of Commons Act, the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act, and the act to make provisions for the retirement of members of the Senate, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization.

[Translation]

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I would first of all request that an error which appeared in