

*Oral Questions***PUBLIC SERVICE**PROPOSAL GOVERNMENT ADOPT POLICY OF WAGE
INDEXING—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the statement just made by the Postmaster General that he and his colleague the President of the Treasury Board generally approve the question of indexing, is the government about to announce a policy in respect of public service salaries in general that there will be the principle of indexing recognized in negotiating salaries as has now been recognized in one salary settlement dealt with through arbitration proceedings.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think it would be inadvisable to generalize in this way. The Postmaster General and the President of the Treasury Board have indicated that there are circumstances under which this might be suitable. Perhaps this particular negotiation is one of those. It does not necessarily follow that one would want to apply exactly the same principle everywhere.

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PUBLIC WORKSGOVERNMENT PLANS FOR DREDGING IN VIEW OF FACT ALL
DREDGING COMPANIES UNDER INDICTMENT

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Public Works. In view of the fact that all major dredging companies in Canada have been charged with conspiracy to defraud the government of Canada, and in view of the fact that we are now into a time when dredging demands are made on the government in respect of inland ports, great lakes ports and ports on the east and west coast, I should like to ask the minister what he is doing to discharge these responsibilities.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, we still have under study a technique of tendering and awarding contracts which will effectively safeguard the public interest.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the country will be reassured by that statement, but I want to ask the minister if he intends, in conducting the day-by-day dredging operations which continue in a demand situation, to do so by using the capabilities of the department or Crown corporations, or by dealing with United States companies or dealing with these companies which have been charged by the police.

Mr. Drury: My hope is that we would be able to make use of all the facilities in the dredging industry to accomplish our purpose.

Mr. McGrath: I have a final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Do I take it from that that the minister intends to do business with the companies charged with conspiracy to defraud the federal government on dredging contracts?

[Mr. Mackasey.]

Mr. Drury: Subject to appropriate safeguards, Mr. Speaker.

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AIR CANADAPOSSIBLE INCLUSION OF WINNIPEG FINANCE BRANCH IN
TERMS OF INQUIRY

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, to clarify what the Acting Prime Minister said regarding an investigation into the Air Canada finance branch in Winnipeg, may I ask the Minister of Transport if he would consider implementing a separate inquiry or instruct the private lawyers to encompass the Air Canada finance branch in Winnipeg in view of the fact that the labour and management problems there have been brought up over 27 times in the twenty-ninth and thirtieth parliaments, the billing schedule is presently eight weeks in arrears, there are over \$127 million in outstanding accounts receivable—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the question is clear enough for the minister to answer it.

Mr. McKenzie: My question is—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I was under the impression that the hon. member had put his question to the Minister of Transport concerning the investigation of the finance branch of Air Canada.

Some hon. Members: Say yes.

Mr. Hees: Yes or no, Jean?

An hon. Member: Say maybe.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): I will not commit myself, Mr. Speaker. The problem is that we will be launching today or tomorrow a very important inquiry whose terms of reference will be very extensive and can be related to several questions included in the quite lengthy question put by our friend from Winnipeg. Anyhow, I think we will carry out that inquiry, see its results and whether it would be advisable to go further and take further action. I am not going to launch three or four inquiries on Air Canada one after the other. It would not be proper to do so.

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[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICEREQUEST FOR TABLING OF REPORT ON INVESTIGATION OF
SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General and it relates to questions put yesterday regarding the SIU investigation and report. If the report clearly removes the suspicion of criminality against any member of parliament, why does the minister not table the report, and thus make it public,