

Oral Questions

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is badly informed. I have met once with Mr. Morris, privately and once with his executive to discuss their nine point proposal.

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POST OFFICE

ALLEGED CONFRONTATION BETWEEN MINISTER AND EMPLOYEES—SUGGESTED MEDIATION BY DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the serious state of confrontation that seems to be developing between the Postmaster General and the postal employees, would the Prime Minister consider asking the Minister of Labour to make the services of his department available in a third party situation so that this problem might be resolved?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I address a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour. If the Prime Minister will not ask the Minister of Labour to make his services available, I wonder if the minister would offer those services himself?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Unfortunately I did not hear the hon. member's question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): My question was based on the serious state of confrontation developing between the Postmaster General and the post office employees. I asked whether the services of the Department of Labour, as a third party, could be made available?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): I think the matter is already in competent hands, Mr. Speaker.

[*Translation*]

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO DEAL WITH EMPLOYEES WHO CLAIM THAT THEY ARE SICK

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Postmaster General.

Can the minister tell the House how many cities and employees are now affected by the epidemic which has struck postal employees, and what steps he intends to take in this regard?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I believe all postal employees in Montreal are sick today. As usual, we do not want sick employees to work while they are sick. Doubtless, when they come back to work tomorrow, they will bring proof that they are in good health.

[*Mr. Stevens.*]

[*English*]

THE BUDGET

POSSIBILITY OF LEGISLATION FOLLOWING PRESENTATION

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance arising out of the questions asked by my leader. Is the minister sufficiently aware of the likely content of the new budget to be able to indicate if legislation will arise out of it? If so, will that legislation be commenced before the summer recess? In particular is the minister aware of the kind of tax increases the Prime Minister promised when he spoke at Belleville?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, in terms of the hon. gentleman's assumptions I do not know whether he would consider me sufficiently aware or not, but I think I know what I am doing.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY—POSSIBILITY OF CONTRACTUAL LINK

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. As it has been indicated that during his trip to NATO, on which he leaves tomorrow, the Prime Minister will continue to pursue the elusive contractual link, has he reason to believe that his pursuit on this occasion will be more fruitful than it has been in the past and does he expect to be able to make an important announcement about this when he comes back?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for wishing me well on my NATO trip. The purpose of my trip to Brussels is not the pursuit of a consensus. My trip to Brussels is concerned with NATO rather than with the consensus. I will be speaking to the Prime Minister of Denmark and the Prime Minister of Luxembourg about the—

Mr. Stanfield: Missing link?

Mr. Trudeau: —contractual link. The hon. member is saying that it seems to be elusive. Perhaps he has not seen rather extensive reports which have been carried in the press to the effect that the commissioners' recommendation has been made to the commission, and the commission will be asking the council of ministers to authorize the beginning of negotiations with Canada. This, it seems to me, is very good progress indeed. Perhaps the hon. member does not understand it. I will try to explain it to him.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I do understand it very well and I am sure all members of parliament do. As it has been indicated a number of times in the past that representations will be made to the commission to make possible the contractual link with Canada and nothing has happened so far, has the Prime Minister reason to believe that more concrete results will be obtained this time than were obtained in the past?