

Oral Questions

could be information they have already supplied to us. It could be other information upon which these charges are based, but that is the proper police force for criminal investigations of this kind. That is the position taken by the Minister of Justice and by the RCMP, and I think that the Ontario provincial police would be the proper force to which to make this inquiry.

Mr. Jelinek: Obviously, the minister did not know the answer to the first question, so perhaps he could answer a supplementary. Would the minister be in a position to announce to this House how the federal part of the investigation is progressing, and when can we expect the investigation to be concluded and a report made available to this House?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): As far as the investigation at the federal level is concerned, as I have already indicated that is in the hands of the RCMP, and it is proceeding expeditiously. I cannot give any more information than that. It is in the hands of the RCMP, and the proper minister to question with respect to that would be the Solicitor General, who is responsible to the House for the RCMP.

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AIR CANADA**ALLEGED POLICY OF OVERBOOKING—REQUEST FOR REPORT**

Mr. Jim Fleming (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport. Considering the fact that for the past month or so Air Canada as a policy has overbooked flights and as a result turned away confirmed ticket holders on a regular basis, would the minister take up this matter with senior officers of Air Canada before the reputation of that publicly owned enterprise is wiped out?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think I will follow my hon. colleague's advice and ask for a complete report by Air Canada. I know that the practice of selling more tickets than seats available is not peculiar to Air Canada: it is common to every airline of the world. They compute on averages for economic reasons. Anyway, I think the House should know what procedure is used. There is no doubt that when someone has a boarding pass, it is fairly frustrating to be denied access to the aircraft. I will therefore ask for the report and will be glad to give it to him.

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*[Translation]***COMMUNICATIONS****CABLEVISION—POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT OF COURT CASES BEFORE GRANTING NEW PERMITS FOR CABLE OUTLETS**

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister.

[Mr. Munro (Hamilton East).]

In view of the ambiguous and tense situation that now exists between the Quebec government and the federal government with regard to cablevision, and in view of the cases now pending before the court, can he tell us whether he will await the results of those trials before considering any other request from potential cablevision operators in Quebec?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the question is slightly hypothetical in the sense that I do not know whether or not there will be other applications, nor what their nature might be; but I certainly agree with the hon. member who points out that some cases are pending. I believe they fall within the two levels of jurisdiction and if the hon. member is of that opinion, I agree with him, that we should not try to solve the problem at the political level while the cases are before the courts. We should certainly not make statements that might hamper the courts in reaching a just decision based on law. As for the future, I cannot answer the question because I do not know whether there will be any other applications, nor what their nature might be.

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*[English]***LABOUR CONDITIONS****STRIKE AT TORPEDO TESTING STATION AT NANOOSE BAY—ALLEGED STRIKE-BREAKING ACTIVITIES BY UNITED STATES PERSONNEL**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the President of the Treasury Board I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice, who, I believe, is acting in that capacity. My question has to do with the legal strike which has been conducted by the dockyard trades and labour council at the torpedo testing station at NanOOSE Bay, a project which is jointly operated by the governments of Canada and the United States. My information is that American personnel at the base refused to cross the picket line, but have been ordered from the United States that they must do so, and that an electronic technician has been flown to assist in breaking the strike. I want to ask the minister if these strike breaking tactics are being conducted with the consent and approval of the Canadian government. If not, will the minister undertake to see that they are stopped?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, as far as I know there was no involvement by the Canadian government. I have been informed that the rumour that there were United States personnel brought in was, in fact, unfounded. I had not specifically asked about an electronics engineer, and I would like to do that to confirm that there was no single person brought in. There are, of course, United States military and civilian persons working there on an ordinary basis.