

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, since it seems to be generally agreed that there must be an atmosphere of confidence created between the government, on the one hand, and those who are directly concerned with air traffic on the other, the air controllers and pilots, a situation which has not been improved by some of the statements made or reported to have been made by the minister, why did the minister decide to avoid some of the provisions of the law last week when a strike was threatened, when he might have appealed to the PSSRB for a ruling as to whether this strike was legal? Also, does he know that a request has been made to the PSSRB by CATCA for a statement as to their legality at the time?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I was aware of that later application after the earlier action that had been taken. Of course, the conduct of employer-employee relations is in the hands, strictly speaking, of my colleague, the President of the Treasury Board, rather than myself as Minister of Transport. However, certain courses of action were open, and one of those courses of action was pursued.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I hope the minister is not going to aggravate matters even further by turning down the appeal that has been put to his ministry—and I cannot give the legal terms because I am not legally trained—to appear before the PSSRB for a declaratory judgment on this matter.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, that, essentially, involves some highly legal considerations. There are other proceedings taking place, and I will not comment on that matter today.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I intended to rise under motions to inquire whether the House would give unanimous consent to my reverting to motions later this day to deal with House business. I am not sure that I will want to take advantage of the opportunity, but if things look reasonably favourable I might put forward a motion for consideration at that time. I would like to have agreement now to revert to motions for that purpose.

Mr. Lawrence: Before you put the question, Mr. Speaker, I wish to point out that there is at least one fairly important committee meeting at the same time as this House is meeting. I do not know what the government House leader has in mind, but it may very well affect the conduct, in one way or another, of what goes on in committee. If the House leader desires to come forward later with a motion, the members on the committee have the right to know, now, what will be contained in the motion. If he is not in a position to tell us that now, and if unanimous consent is required, I must respectfully decline to give that consent.

● (1550)

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps we should wait until we come to motions. We do have one or two routine proceedings to attend to before then.

Mr. MacKay: I rise on a brief point of order, Mr. Speaker. In view of the seriousness of the transportation situation and the amount of time spent discussing it, would the Minister of Transport tell us whether he has considered the question I asked him yesterday with respect to making

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public the results of the aviation inspection safety standards investigation?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Standing Order surrounding the making of statements by ministers gives the Chair discretion as to how many questions are permitted during the question period. There could be no other way of interpreting the request of the hon. member except as a request to extend the question period, which I, in my discretion, consider to have been ample. Seven or eight members, representing the parties in equal proportions, have put questions. The hon. member now seeks to put a further question. Two other hon. members of New Democratic Party were also seeking to put questions.

Having indicated halfway through that question period that I would terminate it by recognizing certain members, if I were now to extend it by allowing the hon. member for Central Nova to speak I would obviously have to recognize other hon. members as well. It was an exercise of my discretion to discontinue the question period when I did, and I do not see how I could reconsider that decision now.

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Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I thought it would be more convenient for the House if I were to make a motion on House business later today, but I must, of course, accept the rules. Since unanimous consent has apparently not been given, I should like to make a motion which would, of course, require unanimous consent because there is not the ordinary notice; it would have been impossible to have given the notice earlier than today.

This afternoon we shall be reaching the conclusion, I would hope, of most of the remaining business before the House with the exception of Bill C-84 and Bill C-83. The House will recall that I said we would continue debating Bill C-83 as long as other business which was on our program was still before the House, but that I would not keep the House in session in order to complete consideration of Bill C-83. That is still the government's position.

The one item which does remain on the government's program and which must be completed before we rise is Bill C-84, apart from Bill C-88 and C-68 on which progress will be made today. This being so, it will not be necessary for the House to sit on Friday for the purpose of completing our business by June 30, unless, of course, the justice committee were to report today, which I think is very unlikely. It would be possible, however, for the House not to sit on Friday if some provision could be made that should the committee complete its business tomorrow, when it might be sitting, or on Friday, the committee could report as though the House were sitting.

This does not, of course, require the committee to report by Friday. That is a matter which is in the hands of the committee, not in the hands of the House or of the government. This proposal would simply facilitate the work of the committee, which would be able to sit more continuously on Friday because it would not be interrupted by the necessity of certain members being here for the ques-