

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

PARITY OF BENEFITS WITH UNITED STATES—  
SUGGESTION THAT MINISTER CONTINUE DISCUSSION

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Labour.

Since the Unemployment Insurance Commission cannot pursue negotiations with the United States or any of the American states in order to establish unemployment insurance benefit parity, does the minister intend to carry on these negotiations at the ministerial level so as to reach that goal?

[English]

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has raised this question on many occasions as a result of his concern for people in his riding. May I suggest to the hon. gentleman that early in the week we arrange a meeting with the hon. gentleman and the unemployment insurance commissioners in order to ascertain precisely what the situation is that is of concern to the hon. member.

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**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**

STEPS TO LOCATE AND PROSECUTE GROWERS OF  
MARIJUANA

**Mr. P. V. Rynard (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the Solicitor General. In view of the reported fact that marijuana has now become the highest return cash crop per acre and its use is on the increase, would the Solicitor General state what steps are being taken by the RCMP, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of National Health and Welfare, to locate these growers and to prosecute the owners and distributors of these illicit crops?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to consult the other departments concerned.

[English]

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture. In light of the fact that Statistics Canada has found that marijuana has now become a national agricultural product, can the minister inform the House whether the government is considering this crop in a new agricultural income stabilization plan?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** No, Mr. Speaker, and it is not listed under other crops.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

24725—37½

**AIR CANADA**

SLOWDOWN BY GROUND PERSONNEL—ASSURANCE OF  
NO DISRUPTION OF PASSENGER SERVICE DURING  
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister regarding the Air Canada slowdown. In view of the initiation of a work to rule campaign by ground personnel of Air Canada, can the Prime Minister inform the House whether the government has been assured there will be no major disruptions of passenger service during the Christmas holidays and, if not, are measures being undertaken so that such an assurance can be given in the next few days?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that the hon. gentleman who is an industrial relations critic, is suggesting that I should bring in emergency legislation to remove from the workers their right to strike if that right becomes legal during the Christmas holidays. I have made it clear in television interviews that I think work to rule is self-defeating and I would suggest to the union members that they drop these tactics between now and the time the conciliation report is made public.

**Mr. Alexander:** I wonder whether the Minister of Labour can assure the House that there will be no major disruptions over the Christmas holidays? I think that is the important point.

**Mr. Mackasey:** Mr. Speaker, the only way I can give that assurance is to take away from Canadian workers precisely what they are entitled to under the law of the land.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. This is becoming a debate between the minister and the hon. member.

SUGGESTED HIRING OF ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES TO  
IMPROVE SERVICE

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister or the Minister of Labour, who seems to be doing the answering, whether, in view of the high unemployment level in Canada and in view of the fact it is extremely difficult and time consuming to obtain a reservation from Air Canada by calling their reservation number, 237-5000, the minister will undertake to improve both the unemployment situation and Air Canada's service by asking Air Canada to hire some people?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Again that is a representation.

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**CIVIL LIBERTIES**

REQUEST FOR ELABORATION OF STATEMENT BY  
MINISTER OF JUSTICE CONCERNING PRESSURE TO  
CURTAIL

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Justice a question in reference to personal liberties. The Minister of Justice has been quoted as saying that he was under strong, very high-