

ask the hon. gentleman whether it is his intention to intervene personally in order to bring the two parties back together?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): As I have answered before, if personal intervention by me, as minister, would help, I would take such a step. However, I do not think the parties would welcome it, nor would it be appropriate at the present time, due to the fact, as I have indicated, that they have not yet had an opportunity to study the conciliation board report and formulate their positions, something which they want to do and which the procedure in fact calls for. They wish to do this, I think, before they communicate with each other or with me.

Mr. McGrath: Since the report of the conciliation board indicates that the members failed to agree, and since all the provisions of the law have now been carried out preparatory to strike action, may I ask the minister whether he now feels it is appropriate for him to intervene personally, since a rail strike is imminent?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, if there was an intervention by the Minister of Labour, I think it would be most appropriate after the parties had a chance of formulate their own positions, having had the opportunity of studying the report. I do not think they have been able to do that or communicate with their own memberships, so far as the unions are concerned, and I do not think management has had an opportunity to consider it or to decide whether in fact its position has changed since the conciliation board report came out.

* * *

SOCIAL SECURITY

SUGGESTION THAT FAMILY ALLOWANCE LEGISLATION BE DEALT WITH BEFORE SUMMER RECESS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that any session of this House this fall is almost certain to be congested with a tremendous volume of business, and in view of the fact that this would jeopardize the possibility of the family allowance bill being passed in time for it to come into effect at the first of next year, would the minister reconsider his position and arrange for this bill to be dealt with before the House rises for a summer recess?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that there is no indication that the agenda for a fall session would be less congested than the agenda is at the present time. As far as arrangements for consideration now are concerned, I think this certainly would be better left in the hands of the government House leader and the House leaders of the respective parties.

Mr. Baldwin: Don't blame us.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I should like to ask the government House leader whether he is prepared at least

Oral Questions

to have the second reading debate on this important legislation before we rise for the summer recess?

POSSIBILITY OF RECONVENING PARLIAMENT EARLY IN FALL TO CONSIDER FAMILY ALLOWANCE LEGISLATION

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the Minister of National Health and Welfare has indicated that the family allowance bill must be passed by November to get proposed payments out by January 1, 1974, and in view of the fact that more consultation will have to take place with the provinces, making time limitations rather rigid, will he assure the House that if this bill is not passed before the recess the House will reconvene in time to pass all stages of this bill?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I did not say prior to November, I said in November.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I gather the hon. member has asked a question, but I am not sure whether it was directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, the Prime Minister or the President of the Privy Council. In any event, the hon. member has the floor for the purpose of asking a supplementary question.

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, my question was directed to the Prime Minister and I will repeat it. Will the Prime Minister assure the House that if the subject matter of the family allowance bill has not passed through all stages before the summer recess, the House will reconvene in time for all stages to be passed in order that the measure will become effective on January 1, 1974?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I did in fact hear the question, but I assumed it to be a matter of representation. I can only answer by saying that I have had enough experience with this parliament to know that I am unable to answer that question. This really depends on whether the opposition parties will co-operate with the government in order to get legislation through, or whether they will use their frequent obstructionist tactics.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: You don't know what obstructionism is.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. This question was asked because members of this party have had enough experience with the stupidity of this government and its legislative programs to know that—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would hon. members kindly resume their seats. The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, who asked the first question. Following that I will recognize the hon. member for Champlain in an effort to complete the first round of questioning.