

Canada's participation in the negotiations is based upon this hypothesis.

At the present time, offers and proposals are being made. It is not possible at this stage to determine whether the offers made on either side are adequate or will result in the kind of reciprocal advantages which will have to come into play at the end. When Vice-President Mondale was here, his declaration on the trade side indicated that the United States had presented a proposal which went a long way toward meeting Canadian objections, particularly in the field of sector negotiations.

● (1452)

**Mr. Murta:** Since the proposal Canada put forward, basically the Swiss formula or 40 per cent reduction, the United States has indicated it is looking in the neighbourhood of 61 per cent or 62 per cent on industrial goods, in terms of the proposal it will put forward. Is the proposal the Canadian government has put forward—the basic Swiss formula or 40 per cent reduction—Canada's firm position, or will the government be prepared to negotiate off that position? If so, to what extent would it be prepared to negotiate?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I believe at the present time all participants are operating under the single hypothesis of a 40 per cent cut. I do not believe the Americans are still pressing for 60 per cent over-all, a cut which was objected to in the earlier stages particularly by the European Economic Community.

The hon. member is asking whether we will back off the over-all 40 per cent. It is understood that countries will seek exceptions from the application of the 40 per cent—that some cuts may be greater than 40 per cent, and others less. It will be an average. When all these are put together, it will be possible to introduce a certain amount of flexibility into the over-all negotiating hypothesis. I should say it is generally understood that when you net out the exceptions and the flexibility, it is expected that a general 40 per cent cut will have been achieved.

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#### LABOUR CONDITIONS

##### PROPOSED 40-HOUR WEEK FOR EMPLOYEES OF COUNTRY GRAIN ELEVATORS

**Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. It relates to the question of a 40-hour week for country grain elevator employees and the minister's letter in response that that will not be his implication, and the letter goes on to state, "to have a realistic and reasonable variation in this form provided by regulation". Is that going to be a regulation from his department? Is that intact now? What consultation with country elevators is taking place in relation to that regulation?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, to answer the last part of the hon. member's question first, we

#### Oral Questions

have had rather continuous discussions with the country grain elevators and their representatives, as well as the unions involved. At least one or two commissions of inquiry that I can think of were very much involved in the consultative process.

As far as the first part of the hon. member's question is concerned, the regulation would be drafted by my department; there is no question about that. In view of the fact I announced in the House prior to the passage of Bill C-8 that I was granting a further period of six months for the entire exemption of country grain elevators from the regime under the Labour Code, it is not immediately pertinent.

**Mr. Malone:** Can the minister give us assurance that these regulations for a 40-hour a week in country grain elevators—which have peak seasons—are not now lying in wait simply for a period that would follow the next election—and God help us if this government gets back in—simply to be implemented then, as indicated by some of the top officials of his department?

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member's cynicism is entirely unjustified in this particular situation.

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#### EMPLOYMENT

##### JOB VACANCY SURVEYS BY STATISTICS CANADA

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Is it the intention of Statistics Canada to do away with job vacancy surveys? If so, can the minister explain why this step is being taken at a time when unemployment is in excess of one million Canadians?

**Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** That has not been brought to my attention, Mr. Speaker. Statistics Canada comes under the jurisdiction of my colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I was not aware they were contemplating that step.

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#### AIR CANADA

##### FIRING OF EMPLOYEES AT U.S. AIRPORTS

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport. It arises from Air Canada's unorthodox firing of some 84 ramp attendants and baggage handlers at United States airports and subsequently awarding the contract to an outside entrepreneur. Is the minister aware of a ground collision involving an Air Canada DC-8 and a towing vehicle which occurred on April 3 at the John F. Kennedy airport shortly after the transfer took place, causing considerable damage to the aircraft? It had the potential of a serious tragedy.