

Oral Questions

department; I do not know whether this study had anything to do with them.

As I have not seen it, I shall have a look at it and then answer the question.

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● (1440)

[English]

AIR CANADA

IMPENDING STRIKE BY MACHINISTS—GOVERNMENT ACTION—POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES COMMISSION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that Canada faces a tie-up of its national airline, Air Canada, because of a dispute with the machinists' union, and indications are that a vote favouring a strike is very likely, one local already having voted 97 per cent in support of a strike, what action is the government taking to avert this strike which could have devastating effects on many parts of the country? I might say that this question was directed to the Acting Prime Minister five days ago and at that time the Acting Prime Minister promised he would have the Minister of Labour bring a report to the House.

Hon. John Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I prefer not to go into further details in reporting to the House and the hon. member until such time as we know the official result of the vote for ratification. If it is turned down, I will be pleased to indicate what further action the government will take.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Is the government giving consideration to implementing the recommendation of the Woods Commission, which was made five years ago, that an industrial disputes commission be established to avert strikes that threaten the national interest and tie up the national economy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this report was considered quite some years ago, and whatever decision the government decided to adopt was incorporated in the bill which has long since passed before parliament.

Mr. McGrath: On May 25 a similar question was directed to the Acting Prime Minister and the Acting Prime Minister, as recorded on page 4092 of *Hansard* said that the government was giving this matter consideration. He said, "However, the government has not found it easy to deal with this question in a satisfactory manner." He did say, and this is on the record, that the government is considering this question. In light of that answer, I wonder whether the Prime Minister would like to revise his answer?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, obviously some ministers are considering this matter but it has not come before cabinet recently. I will look into the matter and see if consideration is being given to it at any departmental level.

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

STRIKE BY FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES AT WINNIPEG—SUGGESTED ACCEPTANCE OF UNANIMOUS CONCILIATION BOARD REPORT

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour. In light of the questions asked last Friday, can he now advise whether or not he has had discussions with Air Canada with the object of getting Air Canada to accept the unanimous report of the conciliation board concerning the strike of the financial and administrative group of Air Canada employees in Winnipeg?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have serious doubts whether the question is supplementary, but as it has been asked it might be easier to allow the minister to reply, if he has a reply for the hon. member. Perhaps the hon. member might like to renew the question. Apparently it has not been heard.

Mr. Benjamin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Labour if he is prepared to turn this way. In light of the questions asked of him last Friday, can he advise the House whether or not he has been in contact with Air Canada with a view to having it accept the unanimous report of the conciliation board, signed by their own nominee, concerning the dispute with the financial and administrative group now on strike in the city of Winnipeg?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, contact has been made with both parties to the dispute.

Mr. Benjamin: And what happened?

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INCOME TAX

LIVESTOCK INVENTORY PROVISIONS IN LAST BUDGET—RETROACTIVITY TO JANUARY 1, 1972, IN LIGHT OF TERMINATION OF BASIC HERD PROVISIONS IN 1971

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, last Friday I directed a question through you, Sir, to the Minister of National Revenue. He said he had to consult with some cabinet colleagues before replying. I think he has had that opportunity. It had to do with the livestock inventory provisions in the latest budget. Can the minister tell the House whether these provisions will be retroactive to January 1, 1972, and, if not, will the government take any steps to cure the tax hiatus between the termination of the basic herd provisions and the commencement of the livestock inventory provisions?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I have checked, and section 28, subsection 1, as amended by Bill C-170, is effective from January 1, 1972. I can assure the hon. member that if farmers who filed 1972 returns prior to the passage of Bill C-170 would like to so request, their returns will be adjusted.