

Oral Questions

I might indicate to him that I wish he could have been there in order to join in the fun, but unfortunately he could not be there. However, I can assure him that good fun was had by all. It was the proper way of showing the excellence of the postal service and, in effect, the ingenuity of postal officials and employees of that department.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Dinsdale: I think I have already made the point that the regular mail service was defeated by bicycles.

An hon. Member: And horses.

Mr. Dinsdale: But with reference to a very serious problem in the north, the allegation that mail bags have been tampered with, is the minister prepared to investigate this charge?

Mr. Blais: Of course, it has been drawn to my attention and I will be investigating it and reporting to the hon. member.

STRIKE AT OTTAWA—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON EFFORTS TO SETTLE

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): I have a supplementary question on an even more serious matter, Mr. Speaker, with reference to the wildcat strike in the Ottawa area. What action is the Postmaster General taking to resolve this difficulty?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to receive representations from the hon. member for Ottawa West, who also intends to ask me a question with reference to this matter. I would like to indicate to the hon. gentleman that at one o'clock this afternoon a meeting will be held with regional representatives of the union as well as local representatives of the Post Office, and I hope that in view of the nature or the motivations behind this particular walkout, service will be resumed immediately.

STRIKE AT OTTAWA—POSSIBILITY OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST EMPLOYEES

Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, is the Postmaster General in a position to tell the House whether or not disciplinary action is being taken in the case of this serious illegal work stoppage?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Postmaster General): I recognize, as does the hon. gentleman, that this is indeed an illegal work stoppage, a wildcat strike. However, I do not want to indicate what further action needs to be taken until such time as reasonably cool heads have met and have sought a solution to this particular impasse.

[Mr. Blais.]

ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA LIMITED

NAMES OF PERSONS ATTENDING WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE IN ISTANBUL—CAPACITY IN WHICH DR. FOSTER WILL ATTEND

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Can he say what persons from Atomic Energy of Canada Limited will be attending the World Energy Conference in Istanbul in September?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I will be very pleased to make the inquiry and give the information to the hon. lady.

Miss MacDonald: I would like to ask the minister if he is aware of the fact that Dr. John Foster will be attending that conference as one of the representatives of AECL, and will he say, or will he find out, in what capacity Dr. Foster will be attending the conference? Will he also tell us whether or not he will be going there as a salaried employee of AECL and, if so, at what rate?

Mr. Gillespie: Earlier I described in the House the arrangements that I hope to be able to make with Dr. Foster, that is to say to enter into a contract with him or arrangement which would cover consultant services to the corporation. I indicated to the House that that conversation would take place towards the end of August or early September.

POSSIBILITY SALES OF CANDU REACTORS DISCUSSED AT WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): The minister cannot have it both ways, one week dismissing Dr. Foster for incompetence in his position and the next appointing him as a representative from AECL to the World Conference on Energy. I should like to ask the minister, in view of this flip-flop, whether he would also determine whether or not the question of further sales of CANDU reactors will be discussed at that conference in September.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I would draw to the attention of the hon. lady the statement I made on motions. If she were to re-read it, she would find out that at that time I made it very clear that I hoped the corporation would be able to retain the services of Dr. Foster and that he had contributed uniquely to the development of the CANDU system. I very much hope that it will be possible to work out an arrangement with him.

As to the question of whether CANDU sales, or possible sales of CANDU reactors, will be discussed at the conference, my information is that the World Energy Conference is not a marketing conference but a conference of experts in the field from all over the world who are looking at many aspects of energy. Undoubtedly, there will be people there who will be interested in talking to Canadians about the CANDU system. If Dr. Foster is there and receives inquiries, I am sure he will relay them back to Canada. I think there will be an opportunity to tell the world about some of the successes of the