

he will be meeting with provincial ministers responsible for housing?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I will be meeting with provincial ministers responsible for housing as soon as time permits. In fact, I have had one or two phone calls, and some appointments are in process of being set up.

THE MINISTRY

REQUEST FOR MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my supplementary question to the Prime Minister. As I understand it, a telegram was sent to the Prime Minister expressing an interest in the establishment of a ministry of housing and urban development. In view of the fact the Prime Minister has placed housing in charge of the Minister without Portfolio, can he now indicate whether he is considering the establishment of a separate ministry of housing and urban development?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, no steps are being considered beyond the ones that were announced yesterday.

[Translation]

NATIONAL PARKS

GASPÉ—AGREEMENT BETWEEN PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Could he tell us whether he has found some new machinery for consultation which could lead to an agreement with the province of Quebec for the development of a national park in the Forillon peninsula?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the Quebec Minister of Tourism, Fish and Game called on me this morning. We discussed this matter and I hope that we will find a solution in the best interest of the people of Gaspé.

Mr. Cyr: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Does the minister think that a 99-year agreement could be concluded before May 15 as requested?

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Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Chrétien: I am very confident, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): During the course of this meeting, did the Minister of Tourism repeat the words heard on the program "Les Couche-Tard" Saturday night to the effect that the minister had gone wrong in becoming a Liberal?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I certainly have not—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Chrétien:—gone wrong enough to become a Créditiste.

[English]

AIR CANADA

STRIKE OF MECHANICS—INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION TO END DISPUTE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and has to do with the Air Canada strike which is now in its third week. In view of the right hon. gentleman's statement that the offer of settlement made to the union, or to the workers, was a most generous one, will the Prime Minister say whether following the course taken by previous administrations the government is now prepared, in the interest of the Canadian people who are sometimes forgotten during these strikes, to introduce legislation to parliament to end the strike?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, we are not considering such steps. I believe we have stated on other occasions what the approach of the government was: that so long as the process of free collective bargaining has not completely broken down, and so long as there is no national emergency which calls for government intervention, we prefer to allow the process of free collective bargaining to proceed.

Mr. Diefenbaker: In view of the fact that both sides, according to radio reports, are not even meeting, what does the Prime Minister mean by saying "so long as the processes of negotiation or collective bargaining are continued"?

Mr. Trudeau: As everyone knows, Mr. Speaker, during strikes there are periods when there are no meetings, and sometimes this is part of the process of negotiation.

Mr. Diefenbaker: It is time the Canadian people were thought about.