

felt that at this particular time it would delay a settlement. The facts of the case are clearly known. Certainly all the facts are on the table. The concern of the Government is to get a resolution of the problem as quickly as possible and not to intervene at this time as it could simply appear to prolong the problem.

EASTERN PROVINCIAL AIRWAYS DISPUTE—SAFETY AUDIT
REQUESTED

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport concerning the airline pilots' strike at Eastern Provincial Airways. The Minister knows that the matters in dispute must be resolved by the Canada Labour Relations Board, but in the meantime EPA continues to fly its aircraft with management and new pilots, at 70 per cent capacity. My question relates to air safety.

There are reports of incidents involving potential accidents, long flying hours, and overworked pilots. Has the Department of Transport made an audit of safety regulations at EPA? If not, will the Minister ensure that a safety audit is made? Also, will he assure the House that the situation will be closely watched and that EPA will not be allowed to reduce safety standards during the strike?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Frankly, Madam Speaker, I have been told by the Minister of Labour that problems concerning labour are his responsibility and I should stay out of them. I am doing that now. I am sure he is attending to this problem. The subject of safety is indeed my responsibility. My Department has assured me repeatedly that all precautions are being taken to prevent a loosening up of safety rules by the company.

Mr. Crosby: Madam Speaker, the Minister did not indicate whether he was aware of breaches of any safety regulations by EPA during the course of the strike. He knows that the strike creates a very difficult situation in relation to safety measures.

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AIR TRANSPORT

ANNOUNCEMENT OF JOINT EPA-CP AIR SERVICE

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, I want to ask the Minister another question involving EPA. It does relate to the Ministry of Transport. EPA and CP Air have proposed a joint service in Atlantic Canada and have made a presentation to the Canadian Transport Commission. How can EPA announce that this service will be instituted in early June in the absence of any approval from the CTC? Will he look into that situation and advise the House how EPA can promote this service during the course of a strike, and without the approval of the Canadian Transport Commission? Will he look into that and advise the House of what is going on?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): As I said previously, Madam Speaker, and I was laughed at to a certain extent, it is very difficult for me to know when the CTC

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announces a decision that is made or when it makes it. Indeed, I was informed of that today. For the moment I can only say that the possibility of EPA operating from Montreal to Halifax appears to be a very favourable one.

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EMPLOYMENT

EXTENSION OF WORK SHARING PROGRAM

Mr. Roy MacLaren (Etobicoke North): Madam Speaker, the Work Sharing Program of the Government expires on May 27. I wonder whether the Minister of Employment and Immigration is able to indicate to the House whether there are any plans for the future of the Program?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for the question. I hope to have an opportunity to discuss the issue in committee later on today. I can inform the House, because I know the Hon. Member is anxious about this very positive Program continuing, that it may be extended for a further year so that some 13,000 agreements signed up until now will continue to have that kind of security in the workplace. I can also indicate that we will be undertaking a number of controlled pilot projects to use work sharing to help industries affected by job dislocation to retrain workers, and also to help permanent lay-offs. We will be undertaking additional modifications to the Program which, I believe, will be of great benefit to Canadian workers.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

DISPUTE AT WEST COAST PORTS—REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT
OF CONCILIATOR

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It concerns the possibility of a grain port shutdown or lockout as early as midnight tonight on the West Coast, and the importance of our \$5 billion grain export trade, as well as the fact that a conciliator was involved, but the talks broke down about a week or ten days ago. I would like to ask the Prime Minister precisely whether he would agree to the appointment of a conciliation commissioner, or a board, since my understanding is that both parties agreed to this procedure. If they both agree, why does the Prime Minister not agree to the appointment of a conciliation commissioner?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Member I would only repeat what I indicated in a previous answer. The Minister of Labour has been in constant touch with the situation in Vancouver. While a strike vote has been taken, full authority has not been given by the membership. The judgment at this time is that we would like to see the parties arrive at an agreement through the collective bargaining process