

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

POSSIBLE INVESTIGATION OF COMPANIES CONNECTED WITH DREDGING COMPANIES BEING INVESTIGATED

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Solicitor General. With regard to the matter of the continuing investigation that the minister referred to yesterday in the House, would the minister advise whether the connections of those who have been charged in terms of other directorships and those companies which may have contracts with the federal government are also being investigated as well as dredging contracts?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): I would have to check on that, Mr. Speaker.

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AIRPORTS

SAINT JOHN—LENGTH OF TIME CLOSED AND REASON FOR TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OF FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, once this consultation between ministers is finished I have a question for the Minister of Transport.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Fairweather: It is all right. The Minister of Justice is saying not to table a letter which will probably be leaked anyway. I gave the minister notice of this question in view of its serious nature. How long has the airport at Saint John, New Brunswick, been closed and have Department of Transport firefighters had their employment terminated as part of what one of the Minister's officials to me was a management game played in the strike situation.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Saint John airport has been opened and closed alternately until March 13. Now it has been decided to stop paying.

[English]

I think we ceased paying the firefighters yesterday or a couple of days ago. This comes under the Treasury Board and is a policy which is being applied everywhere in Canada.

SAINT JOHN—RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTION OF PROPERTY—TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OF FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my supplementary to the President of the Treasury Board. Who is protecting the Department of Transport property and the Air Canada DC-9 which has been strike-bound on the runway for a week at Saint John? What is the distance of the alternate firefighting equipment from the airport and are there any other firefighters who have had their employment terminated as a part of the game that is being played.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I am not yet in a position to give a specific answer to the question of the hon. member. I shall give him an answer when I have the information.

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[English]

GRAIN

POSSIBILITY OF LOST SALES AS RESULT OF STRIKE AT VANCOUVER

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. Is the minister aware that the Japanese have been forced to purchase emergency wheat supplies from the United States because of Canada's failure to meet its commitments out of the strike-bound port of Vancouver as reported by Victor Mackie of the *Ottawa Journal*, and can he advise whether or not any contracts have been cancelled or sales lost to Japan or any other country as a result of the current strike.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, obviously the particular purchase of wheat by Japan cannot be directly and easily attributed to any specific situation, but I certainly would not deny the possibility of what the hon. member has said.

ESTIMATE OF LENGTH OF TIME TO CATCH UP ON DELIVERIES FOLLOWING SETTLEMENT OF STRIKE

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board whether any evaluation is being made presently concerning the time it would take now to catch up in respect of the contracts to which we are already committed in view of the fact that we were behind prior to the beginning of the strike.

● (1450)

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Wheat Board watches the situation on a day to day basis to determine how quickly they will be able to be in a catch-up position.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, the minister did not respond to my question. I wonder if he could inform the country how far we are behind and whether we can expect the Wheat Board to take any contracts after the strike, or whether we should forget about seeding grain this year.

Mr. Lang: I object to the suggestion that I did not give an adequate reply. I indicated that the matter is being reviewed on a day to day basis, which is an obvious thing, and it should be obvious to the hon. member. The fact of the matter is that there can be no precise calculation as to how long it will take to catch up. All we can do is indicate that we will be doing everything humanly possible to catch up as quickly as possible, and we usually do that faster than anyone would predict.