

which causes obvious hazards. Has the Prime Minister had an opportunity of looking into this matter? If so, can he inform the house whether all safety precautions are being taken by Air Canada so that the safety and lives of passengers and staff will not be endangered?

**Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am told that the Department of Transport is doing what it can to make sure that, without breaking the law itself and without interfering unduly in problems of labour relations, it has this question under advisement. The minister may have a fuller report to give to the house tomorrow.

### INDIAN AFFAIRS

#### ELECTION OF CHIEF AND COUNCIL OF GARDEN RIVER RESERVE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Martin P. O'Connell (Scarborough East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Can the minister tell the house whether he has reached a decision to confirm or otherwise the recent election of the chief and band council of the Garden River Indian reserve in Ontario? I ask this question in view of the representations made last week by the said chief and band council to the minister.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I have received of course representations from the chief and the band council, and after consideration of the matter with the Minister of Justice, I have come to the conclusion that I could not recognize the election of the chief and the six councillors who had been elected on that reservation. If there was a misunderstanding, it is due to an error of one of the officials of my department.

[English]

### POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

#### POSSIBLE STAFF REDUCTION FOLLOWING REDUCTION IN DELIVERIES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General. Is the department giving consideration to a substantial reduction in the staff of letter carriers as a result of the change to five day delivery?

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, as I explained during the debate on the bill, we do not anticipate that there will be any reduction in staff, but that the people who would normally be laid off will be taken care of by the normal growth of the department and also by those who retire. In other words, no people will be laid off because of the five day week.

**Mr. Orlikow:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can I take it that it is not true that discussions are going on between officials of the minister's department and representatives of the union concerned with respect to this very question?

**Mr. Kierans:** There are always discussions going on between the officials of the department and the leaders of the union. I saw them myself last week about a number of different problems. However, I imagine that such discussions deal with the orderly transition to a five day week in the urban centres after February.

[Translation]

**Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Could the Postmaster General tell us if, in view of his policy to close down post offices, postmasters left without a job will be assured of getting another one in his department?

**Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General):** We are closing down the small suboffices and all the postmasters in such premises already operate a business or hold another job.

[English]

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the transition to the five day week, which has been referred to, the cause of the drastic impairment and reduction of satisfactory mail service throughout the country?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question includes allegations which are not acceptable.

**Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. The Postmaster General advised members of the house on October 7, I think, that some payment would be made to the rural mail contractors who provided services during the mail strike. Would he now advise the house when these cheques will be paid?