Mr. Stanfield: There are advantages to slow mail.

Mr. Firth: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Does the government intend to pay the fees of defence counsel appointed by the Northwest Territories Supreme Court to serve on the government's behalf?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I would have to inquire whether that matter was considered by the Department of Justice.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES—SUGGESTED INCLUSION IN NEGOTIATIONS OF LANDS COVERED BY TREATIES 8 AND 11

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Since the minister's statement of August 8 specifically exempts those lands in the Northwest Territories covered by treaties 8 and 11 from direct negotiation between the government and the native people, is the minister now prepared to reconsider that decision in light of the fact there is sufficient doubt about the aboriginal claims of the people in the Northwest Territories, and will he take into consideration whether those lands should now be included in any negotiations between the government and the native people in the Northwest Territories?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I cannot make a decision at this time because the legal aspects of the problem have to be considered by the Department of Justice. As far as I am concerned, I have said and I repeat today that I will be always willing to sit down with the Indian people of the Northwest Territories and try to find a way out of the difficulties in which they find themselves and in which we find ourselves. Not later than this morning I was approached by a person to that end and I said, as I always have said to the Northwest Territories Indians, that I am willing to meet them at any time to discuss the problem.

[Translation]

AIRPORTS

PICKERING AND STE. SCHOLASTIQUE—REASON FOR DIFFERENCE IN PRICE PAID FOR LANDS EXPROPRIATED

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport.

Yesterday, we raised the issue of land expropriations in the Pickering and Ste. Scholastique areas. Can the Minister tell us why there is such a big difference between the rates paid for expropriations in the Pickering and Ste. Scholastique areas?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am having this situation investigated. There are several reasons why the rates should be different. I think that this will be nothing new for the hon. member if I say

Oral Questions

to him that some lands and properties do have a higher value than others and all this has to be taken into consideration. For a \$100,000 house built in Pickering, we do indeed pay the full value. When comparing this with a \$30,000 house in Mirabel, one should not infer discrimination.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

In my opinion, it is not so much a question of the houses which have been bought. I should like the hon. minister to tell us why \$300 million can be spent to buy 18,000 acres of land in Pickering, while it is not possible to spend more than \$125 million to buy 80,000 acres of land in Ste. Scholastique?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I think that this is putting the question in a somewhat simplistic manner. Out of the 80,000 acres of land which have been expropriated in Mirabel, some were fallow lands which could have been bought by anybody. The market price of a piece of land can very well be arrived at and I think that the hon. member could do it. A piece of land in full production does not have the same value at all. It would be like comparing potatoes with oranges. Therefore, I do not feel I am in a position to answer this question.

[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS

RESTORATION OF NORMAL RAILWAY SERVICE IN LIGHT OF FAILURE OF SOME EMPLOYEES TO RETURN TO WORK

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Keeping in mind the provisions of Bill C-217 as amended by the House, can the minister advise when it is reasonable to expect rail service to be back to normal in Vancouver and other affected areas?

• (1120)

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, there was a desire on the part of many in Vancouver for an explanation of the provisions of the bill. That is being supplied in detail, although I have the conviction that the details of the bill have been explained to all those concerned throughout the country. I would like to indicate to the hon. member, and naturally I hope to have his support, that we cannot tolerate further open defiance of the laws of parliament. It is one thing to be reasonable, and we feel we have been reasonable, but we cannot continue to tolerate this defiance. I believe I speak for all parliamentarians and the government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STEPS TO EXPLAIN PROVISIONS OF ACT TO RAILWAY WORKERS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Has the Minister of Labour taken steps to send officials of his department who are well acquainted with the details of the act to