

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I know the Hon. Member alleges that she always has the facts. I hope she is accurate in her comments today because she may want to reflect upon them after she hears the details of this particular case.

**Mrs. Finestone:** Oh, you already know the answers?

**Ms. Copps:** You know the details, do you?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** This would not be the first time that charges, insinuations and allegations were hurled across the floor, and found to be unfounded upon reflection and further examination.

**Mr. Boudria:** With your reputation I wouldn't lecture.

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#### CANADA POST CORPORATION

##### LETTER CARRIERS' STRIKE—REQUEST THAT MEDIATOR BE APPOINTED

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. The Post Office has called for a mediator in the postal dispute. The union also wants a mediator. Why is the Government hesitating? Will the Minister be appointing a mediator? When will he be appointing a mediator? What is he waiting for?

**Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, if I understood correctly, the Member asked a number of questions. I will answer at least one. Yes, I have received a formal request from the Post Office to appoint a mediator and I am considering it.

##### MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, is the Minister prepared to indicate to this House that he is willing to appoint a mediator in this dispute? Is he looking for a mediator? Is he willing to make a commitment that he is going to appoint a mediator?

**Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour):** As I have just indicated, Mr. Speaker, I am considering it. My hon. colleague may be assured that as soon as I make a decision this House will be informed.

#### Oral Questions

#### TRADE

##### CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—FUTURE OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARDS

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. Last February 9 the Minister told this House that the free trade negotiations were not about marketing boards and that our system of marketing wheat was not subject to discussion in the free trade negotiations.

We now learn from the memo of Mr. Merkin, the deputy chief negotiator for the United States, that the free trade negotiations are addressing dairy and poultry quotas and the practices of the Canadian Wheat Board.

How can Canadian farmers believe the assurances of the Minister that the marketing boards and the Canadian Wheat Board are not included in the free trade negotiations when the United States administrator says that they are?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I can give the Hon. Member much the same answer as I have given in this House earlier today. He is commenting on press reports on a memo which is allegedly being circulated in the U.S. I have no idea what stories are circulating on the U.S. side of the border. I can only assure the Hon. Member of what is happening on our side of the border.

On our side of the border we are not discussing measures which will undercut our supply management system. I met with our SAGIT on agriculture last Friday when that position was again put forward.

##### COMMITMENT TO FARMERS

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, could the Minister simply give a commitment today to Canadian farmers that the Government will walk away from any free trade negotiation which eliminates the quotas and border tariffs for our marketing boards? Can the Minister give Canadian farmers that commitment today?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the commitment to Canadian farmers was made in the motion which was presented to this House, fully debated, and passed by this House. That is the commitment to Canadian farmers.

**Mr. Foster:** Answer the question, Pat.