

[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS

LAUZON SHIPYARDS—INQUIRY WHETHER PRIME MINISTER
WILL MEET REQUEST OF UNION PRESIDENT

Mr. Raynald Guay (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In the first place, I am pleased to see that shipyards are mentioned in the Speech from the Throne as they were of course in the last Speech from the Throne of our party. Now considering that concern or those pious wishes stated in the Speech from the Throne, I would like to ask the Prime Minister why he has not yet replied to a first telegram sent in August and a second one dated September 19 signed by the president of the Lauzon shipyards representing 3,000 workers. I am also asking him when he will answer the request made by the president of shipyards' workers that a meeting be arranged with the senior members of the cabinet to discuss the short-term rather than the long-term future of the shipyards where there have been so many dismissals throughout the country?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will answer that question next week.

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● (1150)

[English]

COMMUNICATIONS

REASON FOR RESIGNATION OF CRTC CHAIRMAN

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications. As the chairmanship of CRTC is a term appointment for seven years—and rightly so, since that function requires total independence from the government of the day—I should like to know from the minister why the government decided to tamper with this rule and found out all of a sudden that Mr. Camu was indispensable as deputy minister of another department before he had finished his term. He had served only two years of a seven-year term, and I am wondering why this function was tampered with and why Mr. Camu was offered another job.

Hon. David MacDonald (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I think the minister—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):—the hon. member is poorly informed. It will take a day or two to get used to the new relationships.

The hon. member, who is the former minister of the department, is not well informed. As I understand it, that is not what has occurred at all. We were most anxious for Mr. Camu to remain in his present position but—as the former minister, the hon. member, knows—Mr. Camu has chosen employment

Oral Questions

outside the public service. We regret that very much, but we wish him well in his new work.

Mrs. Sauvé: I am quite aware that he has taken a job in the private sector, but I would like the minister to check if he had been offered another job in a government department before he decided to go to the private sector; and I should like to know from the minister whether we can now expect to see the very competent vice chairman, Mr. Dalfen, promoted to the position of chairman or whether we will be treated to another patronage appointment.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I know that the former minister is well aware of what patronage appointments are all about.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I want to assure her that I have discussed the matter of Mr. Camu leaving the public service directly with him, and that it is not as has been said by the hon. member. If she wants to, she should talk to Mr. Camu directly about that.

On the second matter, in order that we can have the very best people serve in important institutions like CRTC, this government is going to consult widely and fairly before making the proper appointment.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

REQUEST MINISTER INTERCEDE IN MONTREAL GRAIN
HANDLERS' STRIKE

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour and it concerns a question which I put to the minister yesterday regarding his intervention in the grain handlers' strike in Montreal.

In the question period yesterday the minister replied that "meaningful discussions" were taking place at that time. It turns out now that no meaningful negotiations are taking place and none are planned. Will the minister please cut out the flimflamery—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rodriguez:—and tell the House that he is prepared to involve himself directly in bringing to a resolution this very serious problem on the Montreal docks?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to note that the hon. member has adopted my wording which was so effective, but unfortunately it is not as effective when he uses it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!