

Oral Questions

During her recent stay in Washington, did the minister raise the question of the floods along the Richelieu river and on the shores of Lake Champlain, and can she tell us today, in view of the report, whether the government is in favour of building a regulating system and of dredging a channel, or whether it would rather, according to the second option, make an intensive joint study on the environment, to determine the implications of the regulating of the Richelieu river in both countries?

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, during my stay in Washington, I did raise the matter concerning the Richelieu river and Lake Champlain.

I discussed the report of the International Joint Commission. That report suggests that we make an intensive study of the effects such protection works would have on the environment. For our part, we consider that previous studies have already established that these effects would be minimal. However, we would be prepared to conduct a study on a smaller scale on the specific questions the Americans have raised.

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[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

**POSSIBILITY OF NEW LABOUR RELATIONS MEASURES
CONTAINING PROVISION FOR INNOCENT THIRD PARTY
PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS**

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the comment of the Prime Minister yesterday that collective bargaining will not remain free if it cannot be made less destructive to Canada than it is today, is the government taking any measures to correct this situation in negotiation with labour-management organizations in order to bring about a new style in labour relations?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the general subject has been under review recently. As yet the government has no specific proposals to make but is hopeful that the studies under way will produce results which are better than the processes now going on.

Mr. Malone: I appreciate that answer, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Acting Prime Minister could give an assurance that the government will bring in an innocent third party to such negotiations or studies especially in light of the fact that ten contracts are due in the grain industry this year? This is an industry which cannot in any way protect itself from the danger of strikes.

Mr. Sharp: The public interest is often involved in disputes of this kind, Mr. Speaker. I doubt very much, however, if it would help in the resolution of disputes if we were to bring in third parties. Perhaps the hon. gentleman has some ideas he would like to submit to the relevant committee.

[Mr. Wagner.]

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

**EFFECT OF LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE ON SUPPLY OF FEED
GRAIN—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. Charles Lapointe (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

The parliamentary assistant, in reply to a question yesterday, advised me that the Minister of Agriculture and the government are informed hourly of the situation regarding the movement of grain in Quebec, following the closing of some ports on the St. Lawrence. Is the minister in a position to say today what is the exact situation, because I kept receiving this morning urgent appeals from farmers telling me it is getting increasingly difficult for them to get supplies from mills?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the condition is rapidly deteriorating and unless injunctions are obtained to disallow the picketing at the elevators in Quebec City and Trois-Rivières, there will be some loss of poultry and livestock. We know people are being asked to share the feed that is in the area and feed is being trucked in from Montreal and Prescott. We do not think, however, that this will be sufficient to look after the needs that will be there in the next day or two.

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FOOD PRICES REVIEW BOARD

**ALLEGED REFUSAL OF BOARD TO GIVE INFORMATION ON
MEAT OPERATIONS OF CANADA SAFEWAY TO MANITOBA
LIVESTOCK AND MEAT COMMISSION**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In his absence perhaps I might have the attention of the Acting Prime Minister or the Acting Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs who, I believe, is the Postmaster General. My question relates to the fact that the Food Prices Review Board has refused to give certain information concerning the meat operations of Canada Safeway in Manitoba to the Manitoba Livestock and Meat Commission. In view of the fact that Canada Safeway specifically authorized the Food Prices Review Board to convey this information to the commission in Manitoba, and in order to avoid duplication of hearings and to facilitate this investigation, will the minister take up this matter with the Food Prices Review Board in the hope that the issue will be resolved?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): The hon. member had his opportunity to make his representations on his question very clear. I will take the matter up with the appropriate minister at the first opportunity.