

Oral Questions

Mr. Woolliams: Everybody knows that \$100 million will not buy a land bank in Toronto.

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POST OFFICE**DISPUTE WITH WORKERS—EXAMINATION OF ISSUES BY CONCILIATION BOARD CHAIRMAN**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Postmaster General. Can the minister tell us whether the chairman of the conciliation board is now in Ottawa examining the questions which are in dispute between the government and the unions and whether any progress has been made?

[*Translation*]

Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General): Yes, Mr. Speaker, he is now studying the question and we expect an answer over the weekend.

[*English*]

DISPUTE WITH WORKERS—SUGGESTION THAT PRIME MINISTER TAKE ACTION TO ACHIEVE EARLY AGREEMENT

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Now that the Postmaster General has committed the government to accepting the report of the conciliation board without amendments and in view of the positive vote of the postal workers on the same report, will the right hon. gentleman use his good offices to urge the President of the Treasury Board to instruct the negotiating team to reach early agreement on the matter, thus ending the present charade, so that the sorely tried Canadian public might be assured of at least a semblance of postal service?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Prime Minister might answer the question, although I have some doubts as to the terms in which it was framed.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I discussed this matter this morning with the Postmaster General. I feel that the good offices of both ministers are being used.

DISPUTE WITH WORKERS—STEPS TO GET PARTIES TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): I have a supplementary question for the Postmaster General, Mr. Speaker. Now that Mr. Shime is back on the job, is the minister prepared to take whatever steps are necessary, including showing a more reasonable attitude, in order to get the parties back to the negotiating table so that we can be assured that there will be no further disruptions in postal service in Canada?

[*Translation*]

Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that Vancouver employees voted in favour of returning to work and have in fact already done

[*Mr. Basford.*]

so. I have also been informed that several employees want to do likewise in the Toronto area.

I believe union representatives should follow the example of their members and return to the negotiation table to sign a contract that we are also ready to sign.

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[*English*]

PUBLIC SERVICE**SUGGESTED EARLY INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENTS TO STAFF RELATIONS ACT AND REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Would he not again consider using his good offices to urge upon his colleagues, particularly the government House leader, a change in attitude with respect to the priority they attach to amendments to the Public Service Staff Relations Act, so that they might be referred to the appropriate standing committee with a view to removing some of the difficulties that seem to arise in negotiations between the government and its various departments?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the matter of the order in which House business proceeds is discussed frequently by the leader of the House and myself. I will get in touch with him on this and other matters.

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[*Translation*]

PUBLIC WORKS**EROSION ON ST. LAWRENCE RIVER—REQUEST TO MODIFY STANDARDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RETAINING WALLS**

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works.

Is the minister considering a change in the standards governing retaining walls along the banks of the St. Lawrence river?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): No, Mr. Speaker, it is not the government's present policy to change the standards as they are quite clear. When erosion is caused either by shipping or by the carrying out of federal works, the federal government is responsible. However, in the case of erosion due to natural causes, the owner himself has to repair his property.

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question. Does the department consider building, in the near future, a retaining wall on the north shore of the St. Lawrence?

Mr. Speaker: This question could be put on the order paper. If the hon. member feels that there is some urgency, it could be discussed at the time of adjournment.