

Oral Questions

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour): I thank the hon. member for bringing to our attention the question of the Voyageur bus strike. This strike, which commenced on April 28, involves some 450 drivers and maintenance workers in the Ottawa and Toronto terminals. It also not only affects service within Ontario but also service to and from Ontario points and Montreal. The mediation branch of the department is available to provide mediation services. The parties are aware of that, but they have not indicated a desire to resume negotiations as yet. If either of the parties does so, then we are prepared to provide the mediation services immediately at this stage.

The hon. member will be aware of the fact that the parties went through extensive negotiations and conciliation services from the time of the expiration of the agreement last November until the strike began on April 28. Our department is immediately available to provide mediation services at the request of the parties.

NEED FOR PROMPT ACTION

Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke): Madam Speaker, the minister must be aware that this company has a monopoly on the services in the western portion of Quebec and Ontario. How long must these people wait to have some kind of gathering brought together? Will the minister immediately try to get the two sides together, to try to resolve this situation so that these people can continue to get the service they expect?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, if the information that the hon. member provides to the House is accurate, that the parties now want mediation services and are prepared to sit down again, then I will certainly respond by providing that service immediately. Of course the hon. member, who is quite knowledgeable in these matters, is aware of the fact that in all of these disputes there must be the willingness of the parties to sit down. They must come to that stage, and if they are at that stage, then we are most anxious to provide the assistance.

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FITNESS AND AMATEUR SPORT

FUND RAISING PROJECTS TO ASSIST IN FIGHT AGAINST ARTHRITIS AND CANCER

Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche): Madam Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for fitness and amateur sport. In view of the discussion which has been going on with respect to Arthritis Month in Canada, I have had letters and inquiries from the Arthritic Association of New Brunswick. I wonder if the minister could clarify this alleged misunderstanding between that organization, and the date set for the Terry Fox fund raising run.

Mr. Nielsen: Why did you say no yesterday?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, the arthritic association has traditionally held its fund raising drive in this country in the month of September, whereas the cancer organization has primarily dealt with its in the month of April. For a variety of reasons, those organizations responsible for establishing the Terry Fox Day, the Cancer Society, the Canadian Track and Field Association, and the Four Seasons Hotels, in consultation with the Fox family, chose the date of September 13 for the Terry Fox Day and the Terry Fox run, in which I hope some two million Canadians will participate.

Of course in the past there have been many instances of the overlapping of various charitable fund raisings. Indeed, during Terry Fox's own run across Canada it was found that, even though it concentrated on the cancer cause, other charities received more than they traditionally did in those time periods.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Regan: I am hopeful that the people who have traditionally supported the arthritic cause will do so, at least to the same degree, and perhaps to a greater degree, in the month of September. However, I can assure the hon. member that following the announcement and the choice of that date by those organizations, officials of the arthritic association and the cancer society met together in consultation and have agreed that they should proceed with the September 13 date for this year and then assess the situation after September's experience.

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AIR SAFETY

INSTALLATION OF JOINT ENROUTE TERMINAL SYSTEM

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. On January 23 of this year I asked the minister some general questions regarding the Joint Enroute Terminal System. It is now crystal clear that JETS, as specified by the Department of Transport, and delivered, fails to comply with the air traffic control operation requirements. I want to ask the minister if he will put a halt to further installation on JETS until a study can be undertaken to determine the safety of the system.

● (1200)

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, this is a big question. I recognize that there is a debate now on the adequacy of the JETS, the Joint Enroute Terminal System. On one side you have my hon. friend, whose opinion as a pilot I obviously treasure, and you also have CATCA, the controllers, saying that the system is inadequate; on the other side you have pretty impressive expertise also. You have CALPA, the pilots' union, who were before the committee on transportation the other day saying that Canadian safety standards at airports were far superior to anything in the world.