

Inquiries of the Ministry

ward the bill. It certainly will not be brought forward for discussion this session but it may find its way on to the order paper.

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TRANSPORT**REMOVAL OF «EMPRESS OF CANADA» FROM SERVICE BY CPR—REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT FOR PURPOSE OF RECONSIDERATION**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a question with regard to which time is of the essence. It has to do with the *Empress of Canada* which will be sailing from Montreal tomorrow for the last time. The CPR has decided it is going to dismantle this ship and take her out of service. All across the country I think there is a general feeling that some action should be taken. I wonder whether the minister would get in touch with the officials of the CPR and ask them to postpone action for a reasonable period of time, so that some fitting solution might be arrived at whereby this connection between Canada and the United Kingdom might be preserved?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, I can merely transmit this representation to the Canadian Pacific and I shall be glad to do that later this afternoon.

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POST OFFICE**ACTION TO RESOLVE STRIKES BY LETTER CARRIERS**

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. In view of the continuing deterioration in morale among the postal employees as indicated by the current wave of stikes, can the hon. gentleman indicate what steps he is taking to deal with this problem?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General): Once more, Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the premises of the hon. member's question. Like most hon. members, I deeply regret that some letter carriers should have decided to stage a series of illegal strikes now. I fully endorse the national executive of the Letter Carriers' Union in their efforts to have employees resume work, but a certain pattern seems to be taking shape whereby, as some letter carriers return to work in one locality, others stop work elsewhere.

The situation today is practically the same as yesterday, except for a shift in closing and re-opening of offices.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, that it has never been the department's intention not to comply with the arbitration award made following the investigation of the grievances submitted by three employees. We intend to offer them a sum of money.

With regard to the decision concerning part-time employees, there were so many applicants that, after con-

sulting our legal advisers, we decided to ask the Treasury Board to appeal that decision.

So, we are asking the letter carriers—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[English]

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Has the government given consideration to not using non-union men in view of the controversy concerning the adjudication report which states that only union men should be used for overtime work?

[Translation]

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): That, Mr. Speaker, is precisely the decision we intend to submit to the Public Service Staff Relations Board and, as soon as a decision is made, we shall be able to act accordingly.

At the present time, the department cannot operate without temporary or casual employees.

[English]

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister if he has received a request from the representatives of the postal workers to meet with them, and if he has received such a request will he be meeting with them?

[Translation]

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, I know that the national executive of the Letter Carriers' Union and the council of the Postal Unions met this morning with officials of my department. They asked that a meeting be held which they, my deputy minister and myself would attend. I am waiting to get back to my office to give an answer.

[English]

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, the minister spoke about appealing the adjudicator's decision. Is the government contemplating going into court on some kind of certiorari motion or some other prerogative writ of that sort to challenge the adjudicator's decision? Is that what the minister is suggesting?

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): I said we were going back to the PSSRB.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**INTENTION OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO LIBERATE TAIWAN—CANADIAN GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the intention of the People's Republic of China, as indicated at the United Nations where they have stated that "China is determined to liberate Taiwan and no force on earth can stop us", what is the Canadian government's position on what is equivalent to a declaration of war by the Republic of China against the free nationalist Chinese?