

Oral Questions

independent supervisory mechanism to ensure the proper administration of such trusts?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): To get an answer in detail to that question the hon. member will have to wait for our statement in the House and the paper which will be presented by the government suggesting how we propose to deal with matters of conflict of interest not only with regard to members of parliament but for cabinet ministers, members of the public service and, hopefully, eventually also for order in council appointments. The arrangement will be based on a long series of studies, including those to which the hon. member referred, and take into account procedures in other democratic countries. An effort will be made by the government to reconcile the very real desire of the people of Canada to have people of eminence in their service, either as members of parliament or in the public service, with the important principle of avoiding a conflict of interest situation where such a person would serve his own personal interest in serving the public.

Mr. Broadbent: Would the Prime Minister assure the House that we will have the promised legislation before the summer recess?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the statement is intended to be made before the recess for this summer.

An hon. Member: What summer recess?

Mr. Trudeau: I want to remind the hon. member that I have not promised that legislation would be passed. We would like to table in parliament the proposals of the government for resolving this problem of conflict of interest by members of parliament, perhaps not only in the form of a paper but as a draft bill. We hope it will be possible for all members of parliament in all parties to improve it, if possible, and certainly to look critically at the suggestions made by the government. If any improvements are suggested, we will probably want to take them into account in bringing in similar improvements to the guidelines for cabinet ministers and public servants.

[Later:]

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might supplement an answer given by the Prime Minister to a question from the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby, on the basis of information just handed to me. While Mr. Teron was appointed to the board of directors of St. Maurice Capital Corporation yesterday at its annual meeting, the ballots had been sent in before his nomination as President of CMHC and subsequently, after his election, he resigned from the board.

REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF ALL STUDIES

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. Does the right hon. gentleman think that a discussion of this serious topic would be helped if not only the report of Professor Williams but the other studies that are going on in the office of the President of the Privy Council could be made public? Surely these documents are

[Mr. Broadbent.]

not internal documents, and it would help not only in responding to the government's belated initiative but would enable us to respond positively and quickly.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that seems to be a worth-while suggestion. I will consider the studies that have been made and see whether it is in the public interest to make them public.

Mr. Speaker: I see that practically every hon. member to my left is rising. We have spent quite some time on two questions only. I think we have lost the advantage we had earlier this afternoon by spending so much time on two questions. Many members will be disappointed again. The hon. member for Hamilton Mountain.

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AIR CANADA

ROTATING STRIKES BY MACHINISTS—INTERVENTION BY MINISTER OF LABOUR

Mr. Duncan M. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. In light of the fact that Air Canada faces the imminent danger of a complete shut-down of air services as a result of the gathering momentum of the machinists' rotating strikes, can the minister tell the House whether he is going to take any personal steps immediately to try to settle the dispute and, if not, why not?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I have taken note of the various suggestions emanating from the official opposition. Let me assure members of the opposition and in particular the hon. member that the government will take every possible action that we think is constructive to resolve this dispute.

ROTATING STRIKES BY MACHINISTS—MEASURES TO ENSURE SAFETY OF PASSENGERS

Mr. Duncan M. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. In light of the fact that unqualified persons are often working on some of the vital services connected with plane travel, can the minister tell the House what special procedures his department is taking to ensure the safety of persons still travelling on Air Canada?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we have increased the surveillance. We have more inspectors and we have taken steps to see to it that the safety of passengers is assured by Air Canada. As the hon. member knows, Air Canada has an operating maintenance manual which reflects the standards of security of the Department of Transport, and we are ensuring that the instructions in the operating manual are followed by Air Canada.