

House of Commons

treaties, will the Minister give this House his assurance that he will raise this matter with the Prime Minister with a view to informing our American neighbours of our unwillingness to test this missile in our country?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, I am sure the Prime Minister is already aware, without me having to talk to him, of these peace demonstrations in the streets. He is also aware of the implications of testing and not testing the Cruise missiles in this country. I share the view of the Hon. Member that we have to take decisions to see how we can promote peace in the world. In many ways I have great sympathy for those who are demonstrating. I believe that everyone in this Chamber, including those in the galleries, are in favour of peace and disarmament. Where we do not agree is how we should obtain that objective.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Madam Speaker, I would ask the Minister to be candid with the House and the Canadian public for a moment. Given the reports of the Prime Minister's recent meetings with the United States Vice-President, and yesterday with the President, will the Minister tell us whether, in his opinion, this whole idea of Canada testing the Cruise missile has gone too far for Canada to turn back? Is there still a possibility that Canadian reluctance to test this missile could result in the whole idea being scrapped?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, the policy of the Government is well known. We are part of the NATO alliance. The Hon. Member knows that we agreed with the two-track decision in 1979. We are in favour of meaningful negotiations in Geneva. The only way to have that is to have credible deterrents in order that the negotiations will be meaningful.

* * *

● (1130)

[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MADAME YVETTE ROUDY,
DELEGATED MINISTER TO PRIME MINISTER OF FRANCE AND
RESPONSIBLE FOR STATUS OF WOMEN

Madam Speaker: I have the honour of drawing the attention of the House to the distinguished presence in our gallery of Mrs. Yvette Roudy, Delegated Minister to the Prime Minister of France and responsible for the status of women.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS

EASTERN PROVINCIAL AIRWAYS DISPUTE

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, my question involves the settlement of the strike between the pilots and Eastern Provincial Airways which has dragged on for several months. I know, in the absence of the Minister of Labour, that the Deputy Prime Minister, like all Members from Atlantic Canada, has a real interest in the settlement of this dispute. The matter is now before the Canada Labour Relations Board and the final matters in dispute should be decided by the Board.

I ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he can give us the assurances of his Government that when the decision of the Canada Labour Relations Board is made known, and if it provides for the settlement of the strike and return to full services at Eastern Provincial Airways, the Government will give the matter its full and quick consideration so that this disastrous strike may be ended and full service restored so that people in Atlantic Canada can benefit from their regional airline.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I cannot add much to the Member's question except to answer yes, indeed, we are keeping in close touch with that particular situation. My hon. friend may appreciate some background of the situation that he may or may not know about. What is happening now in Canadian air transportation is the realization that the good old days are, if not gone, at least not going to be with us again for a while. So there is a tightening of efficiency in the air industry. That is one of the reasons why that strike occurred in the first place.

Eastern Provincial Airways finds itself in a situation where it has hired other pilots for a period of time. Now that the previous pilots want to go back to the company, the company must balance this situation. It is a very difficult one. I have promised the Member that I will keep in close touch with the situation, although this is essentially the responsibility of the Minister of Labour whose efforts I will support.

ENFORCEMENT OF SAFETY REGULATIONS

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, I want to assure the Minister that the pilots of EPA have every interest in the efficiency of the airline and will co-operate in any way possible. They made that clear publicly.

Now that the Minister has mentioned the specific dispute between the pilots and the management of EPA, he must be aware that this kind of dispute with pilots hired during the course of a legal strike could cause difficulties aboard the aircraft. I would like the Minister of Transport to give us the assurance that his Department is monitoring this situation and will see that air safety regulations are very strictly enforced. He knows, as all of us in this House know, that one airline accident will destroy the credibility not only of the airline but