

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS**AIR CANADA—PAYMENT OF RETROACTIVE WAGE BENEFITS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Transport. It could be directed also to the Minister of Labour.

As soon as Air Canada was threatened with a strike, an agreement was reached. The wage settlement included retroactivity, but to date the employees have not received anything.

Can the minister tell us today when he expects this back-pay will be paid to the employees of Air Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order. There may be some urgency beyond my grasp about the question put by the hon. member, but I would suggest that he put his question on the order paper.

Mr. Caouette: On a point of order, or a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

I believe the question is sufficiently important to justify an immediate answer. Besides, the minister seemed prepared to reply. We may find ourselves facing another strike if this question is not answered soon. I feel the urgency is obvious enough.

Mr. Speaker: The eloquence of the hon. member for Villeneuve has won me over, and the hon. minister seems quite willing to answer his question.

[English]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I am afraid, sir, I do not know the reply to the question, but I will ask Air Canada and do my best to give the hon. gentleman a reply.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**RED CHINA—LIBERAL PARTY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AS TO RECOGNITION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Does the recommendation that red China be recognized and admitted immediately to the United Nations, as made yesterday by the Liberal party external affairs committee, reflect government opinion and policy?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, first of all I may inform my hon. friend and other hon. members of this house that we are having a very successful meeting. As the Prime Minister said in his opening remarks yesterday when he welcomed the delegates to the convention, the recommendations of the convention will serve very materially in enabling the government to reach conclusions in the national and international interests.

Mr. Starr: Somebody should guide them.

Mr. Thompson: I ask the minister if he will answer my question. Does this decision reflect government policy?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I think if my hon. friend will reflect he will see that I have answered the question.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): A supplementary question. I appreciate the comments made by the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs concerning the success of the convention presently under way in Ottawa; however, I would like to know if he is now considering the possibility for Canadian delegations going to London to receive a welcome similar to that which we had in Iran two weeks ago, because there was no one from the High Commissioner's office to greet the Canadian delegation at the London airport.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question is not of a supplementary nature.

[English]

TRADE**SUGGESTED ELIMINATION OF TARIFFS IN NORTH AMERICA**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the decision taken at an important meeting held in this city yesterday to press for the elimination of tariffs in North America, is the government planning to initiate discussions with the government of the United States in the near future to further the realization of this objective?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether my hon. friend would identify this meeting to which he refers.