

*Oral Questions*

would the Postmaster General give consideration to calling the chairman of the board to meet with both parties in order that this question can be resolved and we can avoid a work stoppage which already began in the city of Toronto yesterday?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Ouellet:** I answered this question earlier, Mr. Speaker, when I said that the chairman of the Public Service Staff Relations Board had issued a directive requesting explanations from the chairman of the conciliation board on this point.

Anyhow, this issue should not result in work stoppages as it does now. I think it is possible to clarify this point without interrupting work and lowering the quality of services to Canadians.

• (1420)

[*English*]

**Mr. Orlikow:** If the union is not satisfied with the unilateral decision of the government as to what the chairman of the conciliation board meant, obviously the union has very little leeway. I ask the question again of the Postmaster General: In the interest of having continued good relations—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Orlikow:**—would he agree to let the chairman of the conciliation board—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is, I suggest, the same question as was asked by the hon. member and also by the hon. member for St. John's East.

DISPUTE WITH WORKERS—SUGGESTED TRANSFER OF  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO DEPARTMENT  
FROM TREASURY BOARD

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. Since it is obvious that there has been a breakdown in the negotiations between Treasury Board, the postal unions and the Postmaster General, in line with the recommendations of the conciliation board is the government prepared to transfer the responsibility for negotiating a contract to the Post Office from the Treasury Board so that the vitally important postal service may continue uninterrupted?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I, of course, deny the allegations by the hon. member. I believe that the negotiations have been in excellent hands and we are making great progress toward settlement. I hope the hon. gentleman will support us in our efforts.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my next supplementary question to the Postmaster General. In light of the hon. gentleman's remarks in December concerning the breakdown in communications between the government and the postal workers and the consequent loss in morale, would he now accept some responsibility for negotiations as a minister who cares?

[Mr. Orlikow.]

DISPUTE WITH WORKERS—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON  
SUGGESTED PUBLIC INTEREST DISPUTES COMMISSION

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister as well. As there is a reasonable likelihood of further difficulty and of a possible work stoppage, may I ask whether the government is now prepared to state if it has accepted or will accept the recommendation of the Woods task force report for the setting up of a public interest disputes commission. If so, could he indicate to the House the present status of the government's attitude in this regard?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has an advantage over me in being more familiar than I am with this particular report. I will take his question as notice.

**Mr. Forrestall:** Mr. Speaker, I crave your indulgence. May I direct a supplementary question to the President of the Treasury Board, who is attempting to advise the Acting Prime Minister. Is the government in a position of a positive nature with respect to that particular recommendation of the Woods task force?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting suggestion emanating from the Woods task force report. The House will be contemplating later this year amendments to the Public Service Staff Relations Act. Perhaps that will be the time to look at it.

**An hon. Member:** The minister does not know about it either.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

WARDAIR STEWARDESSES' STRIKE—INVESTIGATION OF  
NUMBER OF HOURS THAT PILOTS ARE FLYING

**Mr. Paddy Neale (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. If his department is to undertake an inquiry into the situation pertaining to Wardair charter flights, as he indicated yesterday, would he agree that the inquiry should be extended to find out if the pilots of that firm are being forced to fly between 24 and 26 hours without a break?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that question as notice.

**Mr. Neale:** Would the minister order an immediate investigation into the Wardair charter flight that left Vancouver International Airport on the evening of January 15 destined for Sheffield and Gatwick, which in fact ended up in Keflavik, Iceland, and about which there are some serious questions?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, my answer is the same as that to the previous question.