

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

**LABOUR RELATIONS****CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION STRIKE—INQUIRY  
WHETHER AUTHORITIES WILL MAKE NEW OFFERS**

**Mr. Raymond Dupont (Chambly):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State and Minister of Communications. In view of the harsh criticisms made by the Quebec Premier, Mr. René Lévesque, about the conflict between the French network of the CBC and its journalists, which has been going on for nearly four months, and in view of the reply made yesterday in the House by the Minister of Labour to the effect that the CBC should relax some of its firm positions, can the minister tell the House whether the management of the CBC is planning to make new offers to the union to reopen negotiations and achieve a negotiated settlement as soon as possible?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications):** Madam Speaker, the great interest of Mr. Lévesque in the good operation of federal institutions is well known, of course. I also believe that Mr. Lévesque is in a good position to comment on the length of this strike since the strike at Radio-Québec under his government lasted nearly seven months, if not more.

As for the question asked by the hon. member, I was informed last evening by the management of Radio-Canada that new salary offers have been relayed to the mediator of the Department of Labour. Of course, we hope that the parties involved will reach an agreement quickly.

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[English]

**PARLIAMENT****FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING  
RIGHTS FOR EMPLOYEES**

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Over 3,000 employees of Parliament, working in the offices of Members of Parliament and Senators and elsewhere on Parliament Hill, are denied the fundamental freedom of association and denied the right to collective bargaining, if they so choose, rights which all Canadians take for granted. Over two years ago the Liberal government House leader promised the House that these rights would be extended to employees on the Hill. My question is: when will the government put an end to this intolerable situation, with employees being hired and fired at will, and harassed, sometimes sexually, without any appeal mechanism whatsoever?

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

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I think the hon. member knows that questions of this nature, although the employees to whom the hon. member is now referring are not directly under

the jurisdiction of the Speaker, are not to be discussed under the rules of the House of Commons. I believe this should be discussed in another forum.

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, on a supplementary question—

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, the reason this question was addressed to the Prime Minister was that you, Madam Speaker, said that you were powerless to do anything for the employees on the Hill. So, I ask the Prime Minister again what action is the government prepared—

**Some hon. Members:** Order, order!

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, what action is the government—

**Madam Speaker:** Order. I just want to say that the hon. member is misquoting me in this particular instance, but I should like the hon. member to come to see me in my office so that we can discuss this matter. He should know that matters relating to the employees of Members of Parliament, as distinct from those who are in the House of Commons, are not under my jurisdiction.

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** A supplementary, Madam Speaker—

**Some hon. Members:** Order, order!

**Madam Speaker:** If it is a supplementary to a question that I cannot allow, I do not know how I can allow it.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** A supplementary, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** The hon. member for Grey-Simcoe.

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**VETERANS AFFAIRS****DELAY IN BOARD HEARINGS**

**Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Veterans Affairs. It concerns a veteran, a constituent of mine, who applied for a re-board for a possible increase in his disability pension. He received a reply that his re-board would be 12 to 14 months hence. What steps is the minister taking to correct this injustice? I am sure, as he is a veteran, he agrees there is nothing more horrendous than the Department of Veterans Affairs even suggesting that a veteran should wait that long before any action is taken, because he could be dead and buried before any action is taken.