

Mr. Speaker: The question is put. The minister may wish to reply.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, with respect, the hon. member knows that that is a question which is impossible to answer today, on a day that the European Commission has said that it will not let A and A go ahead with the acquisition.

My hon. friend has been against this acquisition right from the start, and now he is standing up on his hind legs trying to look like a defender of de Havilland when he has been—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Terrebonne on a single question, a very short one.

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[*Translation*]

PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. Jean-Marc Robitaille (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, in a statement made yesterday evening, the President of the Public Service Alliance clearly stated his intention not to comply with the special legislation and to continue the strike from within. He even said something even more serious, that this strike would only end with the fall or disappearance of the present government.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the President of the Treasury Board. Following these statements, how does he see future labour relations within the federal Public Service, and does he think that the threats made by Mr. Bean are totally unacceptable and will jeopardize the loyalty and efficiency of the federal civil servants to their primary employer, namely the taxpayer?

Hon. Gilles Loisele (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, when one is lucky enough to live in a democratic country such as ours, that democracy is based upon the premises that everybody complies with the law and I assume that every civil servant will indeed comply with the legislation.

I regret that Mr. Bean made those statements. He has been fighting an election campaign since the Budget. I can't help it. As for me, rather than wage an election campaign, I travelled to just about every city in this country to meet with civil servants and try to explain our

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policy to them. I am sorry that Mr. Bean made those statements.

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[*English*]

PRESENCE IN THE GALLERY

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the attention of members the presence in the gallery of a working group on newly emerging democracies of the Interparliamentary Union.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

DESIGNATION OF ALLOTTED DAY

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I would like to designate tomorrow an opposition day.

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THE LATE FRED WILLIAMS

Hon. Gerald S. Merrithew (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, veterans and their families lost a great friend last week with the death of Fred Williams. Mr. Williams was Dominion President of Canada's largest service organization, the Royal Canadian Legion.

[*Translation*]

I say philanthropic organization because this is undoubtedly what the Legion is, since it serves the veterans and their survivors by helping them obtain disability pensions and other benefits. The Legion serves thousands of communities throughout Canada and its deeds of charity are past counting.

[*English*]

Comrades such as Fred Williams are the reason the 600,000-member legion continues to be such a force for good in our country. He was generous with his time and generous with his heart. He was a Newfoundlander who served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946. While he served under the British flag in those years during the Second World War, he fought hard for Canada, especially in recent months.