

## Oral Questions

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair will recognize the hon. member for a further supplementary, and then the hon. member for Labelle.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your indulgence. I am indeed surprised and rather disappointed with the explanation of the Minister of Agriculture. Can he explain to the House why that area of Canada is being treated differently from areas such as the eastern part of Ontario and Quebec which faced similar situations a year ago in respect of which the federal government participated in crop aid?

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, I take strong exception to what the hon. member is trying to insinuate. We have treated them all the very same no matter what part of Canada they are in.

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

**Mr. Whelan:** We recently agreed with the province of Saskatchewan to pay \$1,200,000 because there was no insurance available in that area. The hon. member knows that insurance was available to those people for this type of crop loss in Alberta, as does the Minister of Agriculture for Alberta, and that is why the step was taken in Quebec and even in eastern Ontario where insurance was not available.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**An hon. Member:** All talk.

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

**An hon. Member:** Alberta gets it again.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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[Translation]

## AIR TRANSPORT

## AIRPORT FIREFIGHTERS' STRIKE—PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. Maurice Dupras (Labelle):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Transport.

Could he advise the House of the progress made in the bargaining between his department and the firemen on the Canadian airports?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, there is no bargaining involved, but rather the question of finding out whether the report concerning the bargaining between the Treasury Board and the Civil Service Alliance, acting on behalf of the firemen, has been approved or not. Some 20 minutes ago, I learned that the firemen had rejected the agreement reached by the Civil Service Alliance and the government, which means, as far as I could judge from the statements made by the firemen involved, that they will resume work immediately, the Alliance having accepted to submit the conflict to arbitration, and I am told that a request for

arbitration has already been sent to the Canada Labour Relations Board as regards aspects related to the Public Service. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it seems that we may see the normal resuming of operations.

[English]

● (1450)

## INQUIRY AS TO REACHING OF AGREEMENT WITH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ON PAY INCREASE

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate whether an agreement has been reached between the government and the air traffic controllers who are seeking a new contract with his department?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** No, they are not seeking a contract with my department. They are seeking a contract with Treasury Board.

**Mr. Crouse:** Mr. Speaker, I will redirect my question to the President of the Treasury Board. Would he indicate whether any agreement has been reached between the air traffic controllers and the Treasury Board with regard to their request for an increase in remuneration?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** The answer is no, Mr. Speaker, not as yet, but we are working continuously to achieve this objective.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta for a supplementary and then the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre.

## RECLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN AIRPORTS FROM CLASS D TO CLASS C

**Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact the minister has reclassified Vancouver international airport and other airports from class D airports to class C airports so that DC-8's are now landing on a limited basis, can he tell us why they were not reclassified at the start of the strike so we could have had better service?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** For the very good reason that the supervisors fulfilling these duties wanted to know how to operate very suitably and rapidly the equipment which they did not know before. It is a matter of security, and now they say they can handle the equipment to take care of the DC-8's and 707's.

**Mr. Speaker:** I seek the co-operation of hon. members to attempt to limit the number of supplementaries between now and the end of the question period. I will see the hon. member for a supplementary.

**Mr. Reynolds:** I have a short question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister telling us that those supervisors were not fully trained and that the security was not good at the start of the strike?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** They were trained and they could handle the aircraft that were described in the communiqué issued to the press. Now that they are better trained they say, "well, we can take a little bit more".