

of oil in that area and their consequence upon the environment. I think the terms of reference we had in mind for the International Joint Commission will apply to this committee, but of course there is a difference between a committee like this and the IJC.

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[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS

QUEBEC—LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE—ESTABLISHMENT OF INQUIRY COMMISSION—POSITION OF PARTIES

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Labour concerning the labour dispute in the St. Lawrence ports.

Since he met yesterday with both parties involved, I would like to ask the hon. minister if he told them he had proposed the establishment of an inquiry commission to find a solution to this dispute, and when he intends to do it?

[English]

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): The question of the inquiry commission was discussed with both parties. I am meeting again with the Maritime Employers Association this evening for further discussions on this subject, as well as the prior conditions which are to be worked out between the two parties on arrangements for return to work and lifting of the suspension.

QUEBEC—LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE—SUGGESTION THAT MINISTER ADOPT GET-TOUGH POLICY

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In light of the fact that the minister has used every approach possible, can he assure the House that when he meets with the parties this time he will have a get-tough policy, with government alternatives to settle this whole matter in the event the parties do not come to agreement within the next two days? When he meets with them this afternoon and this evening, does the minister intend to adopt a get-tough stance? Also, in light—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has asked a question and he should allow the minister to reply.

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, we are proceeding on course. I have no intention of committing this Parliament to any action, and if that is what the hon. member is suggesting perhaps he ought to clarify his question further.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have almost reached the end of the question period. The hon. member has a supplementary and will be recognized for that purpose.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I am surprised the minister has now placed me on the government side. We will be over there after the next election.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: What a dream!

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Alexander: In light of the fact that public interests are being adversely affected, particularly in the city of Montreal and surrounding area, to the extent of \$1 million a day, I again ask the minister whether he will get tough in this situation, because the public cannot afford it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Assiniboia.

QUEBEC—LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE—SUGGESTED INCREASED USE OF PORT OF CHURCHILL FOR GRAIN SHIPMENT

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is addressed to the Minister of Transport. In view of the great difficulty in moving grain through ports on the east coast, could the minister inform the House whether action is being taken to extend the use of the port of Churchill?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): To the best of my knowledge, as much grain as can be moved through Churchill is being moved through there. However, if there is a possibility of further shipment through that port we will look into the matter. I was advised by the National Harbours Board that they are looking into the matter of greater movement through Prince Rupert which can be done with the existing facilities.

[Translation]

QUEBEC—LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE—GOVERNMENT POSITION RESPECTING ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUSTEESHIP

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the right hon. Prime Minister.

It refers to the question I asked him yesterday about the telegram from the Montreal Port Authority. Now that the right hon. Prime Minister has had time to read this telegram, can he tell us if he recommended to the government that trusteeship measures be instituted if the dispute is not settled soon, or if he intends to do so?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have read the telegram, but I must remind the hon. member that this telegram mentioned trusteeship at the same time as other measures that we should consider, and a choice was given to us. This is exactly what the Minister of Labour has done; he took other measures.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. With the consent of the hon. member for Oxford who wishes to rise on a question of privilege, the hon. member for Crowfoot might be allowed to ask a supplementary; then we will go to the question of privilege and call orders of the day.