

one or perhaps two supplementary questions. Can the Acting Prime Minister inform the House whether he has received a telegram from Victoria today from the four western premiers outlining their deep concern about the statement of the Minister of Justice just before the western economic conference, suggesting that they have pipeline vision and are not taking into account the interests of Canada?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I have not seen such a telegram but I will be glad to make inquiries.

[Translation]

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will perhaps allow me to recognize the hon. member for Assiniboia on a supplementary question, after which I will recognize the hon. member for Compton.

[English]

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, can the Acting Prime Minister inform the House whether or not the federal government is taking seriously the western economic conference to be held in July?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I think the House is well aware that the government is not only taking it very seriously but intends to make it a meaningful conference.

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[Translation]

AIRPORTS

SUGGESTED ELIMINATION OF INCREASE IN LANDING FEES FOR LIGHT AIRCRAFT—POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN FIXED ANNUAL CHARGE—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Would he inform this House if he is considering coming back on a decision taken recently to levy a \$5 fee each time an aircraft lands at airports maintained by the federal government?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in this connection, there is a draft regulation that was to be effective as of July 1, but it will be postponed until October 1.

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question.

Would the minister also say if he intends to lower the annual fixed rate of \$100 that every aircraft owner must pay to use airports?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): No, Mr. Speaker.

Oral Questions

[English]

AIR CANADA

MAINTENANCE OF SAFETY STANDARDS FOR PLANES IN LIGHT OF STRIKES

Mr. Duncan M. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In light of a recent statement by an Air Canada spokesman that the supervisory personnel are getting tired maintaining the planes, can the minister assure the House that an adequate level of safety for those who can still travel by Air Canada is being maintained?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, the department is doing all it can in order to assure that the safety standards are respected by Air Canada.

Mr. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell the House how regularly he receives safety reports concerning Air Canada, and when he received the latest one?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): They are received on a daily basis, Mr. Speaker.

ROTATING STRIKES BY MACHINISTS—REDUCTION OF NUMBER OF FLIGHTS—POSITION OF NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour concerning the labour dispute involving Air Canada. In light of the fact the situation is being drastically changed in that, in addition to being faced with rotating strikes, Air Canada is cutting back the 550 flights for tomorrow by 30 per cent, and keeping in mind that the minister said on Friday the parties were getting closer to an agreement, can the minister now advise whether in fact the parties are closer to an agreement and, if not, what are the obstacles that are separating the parties?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I would advise the hon. member that I was in touch with the mediator, Mr. Bernard Wilson, a few hours ago. The report is quite encouraging and I am hoping, as I indicated on Friday, that this dispute will soon be resolved. On the basis of his report I think there is a basis for such encouragement.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I am not overly optimistic, but the preamble to my question still stands. In view of the fact the chairman of the board, Mr. Pratte, has indicated that if strikes are going to continue it may be necessary for Air Canada to shut down its services completely, a statement which is certainly verified by Mr. Baldwin, is the minister prepared to allow this to happen and, if not, what does he intend to do in order to avert such action?

● (1450)

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): As I indicated earlier, this party, as is the Official Opposition, I understand, is in favour of the process of free collective bargaining, and that is what is going on at present. If we do not leave it to