

Oral Questions

LONGSHOREMEN AT SAINT JOHN—POSSIBILITY OF INTERFERENCE BY UNITED STATES UNION OFFICIALS

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Labour. Is the minister inferring that the interference by Mr. Gleason and Mr. Sullivan of the United States International Longshoremen's Union is the cause for the union men in the port of Saint John not working? Is this what the minister is inferring or have I misunderstood?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I have to answer this in a hypothetical vein. If it can be established that the Canadian membership took this action at the sole instance of direction from Mr. Sullivan or Mr. Gleason, then, of course, this is the type of action that should be repudiated. There is also the suggestion that the membership could act on its own and perhaps some did indeed act on their own.

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AIR CANADA

REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO RELATIONSHIPS OF MCGREGOR TRAVEL AGENCY

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. I regret I did not have the document or I could have taken this up with the minister in committee. Will the minister cause an investigation under the Inquiries Act into the circumstances whereby the president of McGregor Travel of Montreal received \$100,000 in advance late last year ostensibly for three consultant tasks involving relationships with provincial governments and, according to two of the letters of agreement, influence governments and trade in the Middle East and Latin America for the benefit of Air Canada?

● (1420)

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Who received the \$100,000? I did not get the name.

Mr. MacKay: The name is Bob McGregor—R. Y. McGregor of McGregor Travel, Montreal.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): He received the \$100,000?

Mr. MacKay: May I put one further question to the Minister?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): It is a serious question but I shall have to inquire because I was not aware of that fact.

Mr. MacKay: Would the minister not agree—assuming that this is right, and I have the documents for him—that this type of approach by Air Canada through a travel agency official could be misinterpreted by the governments of other nations and also impinge on the prerogatives of some of the Minister's colleagues including the Secretary of State for External Affairs, as well as being questionable business ethics which could involve the jurisdiction of IATA. Is he not concerned about the implications of what Air Canada is apparently doing, not

[Mr. Munro (Minister of Labour).]

through regular channels such as the international affairs division of our airline, but rather through a travel agent?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): When I have the information I will give the opinion the hon. member is inviting.

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HEALTH

MEDICARE—ALLEGED SETTING OF TIME LIMITS FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): A question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Speaker. In view of the threatened withdrawal of several practising physicians from the medicare plan in one of the provinces which is scheduling examination time allotted for patients, a gross interference with the consciences of the doctors and the quality of medicare, I should like to ask the minister whether any of the provinces have consulted with him regarding this new departure, the setting of time limits for medical examinations?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker, the only information I have is what I have read in the newspapers.

[English]

Mr. Rynard: Would the minister agree with me that this is a dehumanizing restriction? Since the medicare legislation protects the quality of medical care in all the provinces, does the hon. gentleman not agree he has a direct responsibility in this matter?

Mr. Lalonde: The answer to both questions is no. With regard to the first question, what I have seen reported in the press is that doctors will be required to spend a minimum of time with their patients, not a maximum. So there does not appear to be any intention of restricting the time spent with patients. Rather, doctors are being expected to spend sufficient time with their patients to enable them at least to know what is wrong with the patients.

Mr. Rynard: Would the hon. gentleman get in touch with his provincial counterparts to ascertain whether he is correct because, if the situation is as he says, time might well be wasted.

Mr. Lalonde: I have sufficient confidence in the ability of my provincial counterparts and in the medical profession in this country to deal with this matter.

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INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE

DATE OF APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT—POSSIBILITY OF SPLITTING DEPARTMENT

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. In view of the critical importance to the Canadian economy of the activities of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce particularly with reference to Canada's precarious position in the