

Oral Questions

contract to provide security services at the Montreal international airport, and that despite these warnings the contract was awarded, although since that time the company has been replaced?

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, I feel that security matters within international and national airports come under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Transport.

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[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE**ALLEGED USE OF REGIONAL PAY RATES TO KEEP PAY RATES LOW IN ATLANTIC REGION—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board. The Sydney airport firefighters, most of whom are in my riding, have notified me that the Treasury Board intends to force regional rates of pay as opposed to national rates of pay in the Atlantic region, based upon the assumption that the psychic income derived from physical, social and cultural environment there is superior to the rest of the nation.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member put his question directly?

Mr. Hogan: Is this true or not? Since the first language of the minister is French, may I advise him that "psychic income" means the general cultural environment. Are these in general the criteria which the union is accusing the Treasury Board of using in order to keep the rates of pay low in the Atlantic region as against the rest of Canada?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I had occasion to reply to a similar question yesterday in the House. The hon. member might consult *Hansard*.

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[English]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**SUGGESTION DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS NOT HELPING ATLANTIC REGION WHEN TREASURY BOARD PAYS REGIONAL RATES**

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Economic Regional Expansion. How can the minister claim that DREE is really helping to close the income disparity gap in this country when the Treasury Board operates on such a discriminatory basis with regard to federal employees in the Atlantic region, not only firefighters but GLT workers, national park workers and everybody who works for the federal government?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. MacKay.]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I think the common response to that is that the question is argumentative. However, I am discussing the whole question of regional rates frequently with my colleague in the Treasury Board and I think he is responsible for the government's position.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**POSSIBILITY OF LEGISLATION TO PERMIT MEMBERS TO FORM ASSOCIATION OR UNION—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): My question is for the Solicitor General. In view of reports of persistent efforts by certain members of the RCMP to form an association for the purpose of negotiating on matters of pay and other things, can the minister advise the House as to whether discussions have been going on with the association or any of its representatives? In order to avoid the necessity for a supplementary question may I ask the minister if he could advise the House as to whether or not it is contemplated that the government will bring forward legislation which will have the effect of removing the provision in the present law prohibiting the organization of trade unions in the RCMP, and what are his comments with respect to the right to strike?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, no petition or application has come before me at this time with respect to a union or association in the RCMP. I have investigated the reports that were in the newspapers and I understand that the association to which reference has been made has so far enlisted about 100 men, most of them in the Ottawa area. Therefore, the association cannot be considered representative of the RCMP at this time. I imagine that if at a certain period of time the association becomes widely representative of the force, I will be pleased to take this under further consideration.

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AIR TRANSPORT**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON POSSIBILITY OF SERVICE BETWEEN CANADA AND CUBA**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport who is in such good form after his trip. Now that we are all rejoicing in Air Canada extending its service to PEI, can he report progress on another long desired and long discussed regular service, namely the service between Canada and Cuba?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): I must confess that I know we have been negotiating with Cuba but I do not know whether we have reached agreement. However, I will inquire into it and report to the hon. member.