

## Oral Questions

[English]

## FINANCE

## SUGGESTION MINISTER OF FINANCE ASK BANKS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN IMPOSITION OF SERVICE CHARGES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a motion under Standing Order 43, and it is one to which I believe the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) would be happy to agree. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin):

That the Minister of Finance be asked to call on the chartered banks to exercise restraint with respect to the charges they impose on their customers, it being the view of this House that the amounts being charged for deposits, withdrawals and the writing of cheques have got out of hand, and that charges for transfers by customers from one account to another are beyond reason.

**Mr. Speaker:** The motion is proposed pursuant to Standing Order 43 and cannot be debated without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

## LABOUR CONDITIONS

## STRIKE OF LONGSHOREMEN IN QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO SETTLE AND RESTORE REPUTATION OF PORT OF MONTREAL

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Labour or the Acting Minister of Justice, whichever may be the more appropriate. It refers to the reported withdrawal of their services by longshoremen in Montreal. Has the Minister of Labour verified this situation, and, if the reports are correct that the longshoremen have withdrawn their services and the port is closed down in that sense, what action has the government taken?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can verify to the Leader of the Official Opposition that it is correct that the longshoremen have withdrawn their services. I am advised that, subject to further amplification by the Solicitor General, appropriate legal remedies are now being looked into with a view to their institution.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Solicitor General, in his capacity as Acting Minister of Justice in the House, precisely what measures are being taken, whether the government is seeking an injunction as before, and does the minister feel it necessary to gather evidence or, on the other hand, does he feel that the report of the withdrawal of service and the vote not to work would be considered sufficient evidence in this case?

[Mr. Speaker.]

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have been in contact with the Solicitor General and the Department of Justice on this matter, and I want to tell the House that we are preparing to take certain legal actions, but we are in the process now of gathering information to make those actions possible. At this time I cannot indicate what those specific actions will be. I would expect that by tomorrow I, or one of the ministers, will be able to inform the House in that regard.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, since the right hon. gentleman has volunteered to supply some information, I should like to ask him what additional measures this government has in mind to restore the reputation of Montreal as a world port? I understand that some 14 ships or so were abandoned unserved in the port, which surely reflects on the port and its usefulness to Canada, particularly following the previous interruptions of service. I would ask the Prime Minister what measures, if any, his government proposes to take to help restore the reputation of Montreal for reliability.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is quite right in indicating the seriousness of the matter so far as the future of the port of Montreal is concerned. We indeed view it as a most serious situation which, beyond the immediate labour problems itself, could have very severe consequence for the harbour and therefore for the city of Montreal itself. Beyond the legal decisions I just referred to in reply to the previous question, I am trying to ensure that the responsible authorities in Quebec, and indeed public opinion itself, understand the seriousness of the situation and that we will have very strong public support in whatever action we take.

## GOVERNMENT ACTION TO AVOID STRIKES WHICH DISRUPT GRAIN TRAFFIC—MEASURES TO PROTECT PRODUCERS FROM FINANCIAL LOSS

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Labour. In view of the statements made over the weekend by two leading delegates of the Japanese flour milling industry that Canada's prominence as a grain exporter is severely threatened by lengthy strikes which disrupt grain traffic, I should like to ask the minister if he is in a position to advise the House of what specific action the government is considering to alleviate those costly disruptions in this very important industry. I ask this question given the fact that the grain movement can be disrupted by any one of the more than 30 unions involved in the movement of grain.

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member may be aware of discussions initiated at the last presentation of the CLC to the government when there was discussion between the Prime Minister and the CLC with reference to consolidation of certain bargaining units. This discussion having been carried on, there are indications that it is possible that management and labour will get together in an effort to resolve matters of this kind, particularly in respect of the grain industry. The hon. member may have noticed, and the opposition referred to it last week, that the president of the CLC indicated he was looking into this particular area right