

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, December 10, 1975

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

PROPOSED COMMITTEE STUDY OF REGULATIONS—MOTION
UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, according to the provisions of Standing Order 43, I ask the unanimous consent of the House to introduce a motion on an urgent and important matter.

Considering the powers conferred under Bill C-73 to the Anti-Inflation Board, and the regulations that will be made after the adoption of this legislation, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier):

That this House recommend that regulations to be made under Bill C-73 be brought to the attention of the Standing Committee on Finance and Trade before their application.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The House has heard the hon. member's motion. Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, such motion requires unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent; the motion therefore cannot be put.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

POST OFFICE

POSSIBILITY ANTI-INFLATION BOARD WILL REJECT
SETTLEMENT WITH UNION—POSITION OF POSTMASTER
GENERAL

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. In light of reports that the Anti-Inflation Board will today indicate non-acceptance of the agreement between the Post Office and the CUPW, has the minister requested permission from the Anti-Inflation Board to appear before it to make representations?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I am unaware of the reports simply because none

have been brought to my attention officially. I have no hesitation to seek—

An hon. Member: Do you listen to radio?

Mr. Mackasey: I am a better friend of labour than the socialists ever were. I may say to the hon. gentleman that if the Anti-Inflation Board thinks this is too rich a settlement, what would it have thought of the 52 per cent settlement the NDP were advocating? Having said that, I suggest I would go to the Anti-Inflation Board on behalf of the workers of CUPW, even though I have contempt for some of their leaders, and be prepared to fight for the workers who have been deprived of wages for 41 days. I think the Anti-Inflation Board in the meantime can address itself to such meaningful things as rolling back the exorbitant prices of certain foodstuffs in this country.

● (1410)

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON APPEARANCE OF POSTMASTER
GENERAL BEFORE ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister? Is it the government's position that the Postmaster General should seek permission to make representation to the Anti-Inflation Board? If so, would the Postmaster General be stating the government's case before the Anti-Inflation Board?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge this question does not arise in this way. When the Anti-Inflation Board, in carrying out its mandate, wants to question the validity of any settlement, it gets in touch with both parties. I know it got in touch with certain ministers of the government. I have no knowledge of what it did with labour. I have been told, and this is hearsay, that it has been in touch with labour. There is no question at this time or, indeed, in future, of having the Postmaster General make certain representations to the Anti-Inflation Board.

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ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

POSSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT APPEALING BOARD'S
REJECTION OF A WAGE SETTLEMENT TO WHICH IT WAS A
PARTY

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I want to know the position of the government in the case where the Anti-Inflation Board finds a settlement, to which the government is a party, unsatisfactory. Would the government entertain an appeal with respect to that agreement to which it is a party? This is not a hypothetical question. Is