

Mr. Olausen: Would the minister undertake to make a statement on motions at the conclusion of these discussions?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I do not think it would be necessary if an agreement should be reached. The hon. gentleman would only have to read the agreement.

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POST OFFICE

INQUIRY AS TO CONCILIATION REPORT ON POSTMASTERS IN SMALL TOWNS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. Can the Postmaster General inform the House when the conciliation report providing a fair deal for the 8,000 members of the Canadian Postmasters Association serving small town and rural communities will be brought down?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I think that the report has already been made public. It has been given to the employees who have considered it and are now voting on it. I think that the hon. member can easily get a copy of this report.

[English]

Mr. Dinsdale: I am referring to the conciliation report dealing with the 8,000 members of the Canadian Postmasters Association in small town and rural communities. The reason my question is urgent is that the last contract expired in September and the present rates are altogether inequitable. Could the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member will allow the minister to reply.

[Translation]

Mr. Ouellet: I am going to check, Mr. Speaker—

INQUIRY RESPECTING DELEGATION OF OBSERVERS TO POSTAL WORKERS' MEETINGS

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Could the minister state whether, when meetings do take place to consider the pros and cons of the vote concerning going on strike or not, at the Post Office Department, his department intends to send observers in order to find out exactly what is going on?

Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General): The vote ends today, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

INQUIRY AS TO ACCEPTANCE BY GOVERNMENT OF CONCILIATION BOARD REPORTS ON DISPUTE WITH POSTAL WORKERS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): I have a supplementary for the President of the Treasury Board. In view

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of the fact that balloting has concluded, can the hon. gentleman inform us whether or not the government intends to accept the report from the conciliation board on the postal situation?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): I do not think the result of the balloting is yet known.

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[Later:]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister and it is really supplementary to a question asked of him earlier. Will the right hon. gentleman tell the House whether he is planning any further federal-provincial conferences for other areas of the country when economic conditions reach the same deplorable state there as they have reached in the west?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question is hypothetical.

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AIRPORTS

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL—ROAD BUILDING AND RUNWAY EXPANSION—INTENTION AS TO MEETING WITH SEA ISLAND RESIDENTS CONCERNING COM- PLAINTS

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. In view of the numerous pleas which were made to the Prime Minister and to the Minister of Transport, requesting their personal intervention concerning the problems inflicted on the residents of Sea Island by the proposed road building and runway expansion at Vancouver International Airport, may I ask whether it is the intention of the Prime Minister or the Minister of Transport to meet personally with the people involved and investigate their charges of injustice and discrimination?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I have had some exchanges with these people by way of correspondence, and so has the previous Minister of Transport. My recollection of the matter is that the representations made in their last letter to me had been sufficiently answered by the then Minister of Transport. A copy of the letter was sent to myself. I will check whether there has been any further arrival of representations to myself or to the Minister of Transport in recent weeks.

Mr. Reynolds: Would the Minister of Transport see fit to meet with these people before the meeting which is to be held on January 17 regarding access to the bridge, and would he also discuss at that time the meeting being held today in Vancouver concerning the airport?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): If there are any complaints and anybody wishes to meet with me I will look into the file and be ready to arrange such a meeting if it seems useful.