

opportunities to exploit the issue, as the hon. member is doing now.

INQUIRY WHETHER UNITED NATIONS INFORMED CANADA
DOES NOT WELCOME REPRESENTATIVES OF TERRORIST
GROUPS

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Has the United Nations been informed by the minister, by his department or by anybody in the government that, generally speaking, terrorist representatives in Canada are not welcomed and a member of that prohibited class would have to make an application to enter Canada, UN meeting or no?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the information I conveyed to the House the other day was that the PLO has been decreed as being an organization the members of which are prohibited. But there is a provision in the law under which a minister's permit can be issued for a temporary entry for specific purposes where no danger is involved, and that is a judgment that has to be exercised. I am not aware of any specific communication to the UN about this to date, but I am of the mind that the UN may be familiar with those conditions. However, as the Acting Prime Minister has indicated, this is the situation at present, and the policy is being reviewed.

* * *

PUBLIC SERVICE

STRIKE OF NURSES IN YUKON—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO
SETTLE

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the fact that nurses belonging to the Public Service Union of Canada went on strike at midnight last night in the Yukon, that this strike will likely spread to all parts of Canada within the next week, that these nurses are making extremely reasonable demands in that they are looking for parity with their counterparts in the provinces, and that they have indicated that they would accept either a one year contract or a contract which includes a COLA clause, will the President of the Treasury Board tell the House if he is prepared to instruct his negotiators to make an offer which is more in line with the demands of the nurses and comparable to settlements being made in the provinces?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, this group of public service professionals has had the right to strike for several weeks. There have been isolated strikes across Canada in this regard. The government position is clear. There has been a unanimous conciliation report. The union spokesman, the government representative and the president of the conciliation board have all submitted a unanimous report that was accepted by the government. Naturally, when a union

Oral Questions

spokesman accepts a report, I would be ill-advised to contravene it.

● (1130)

[English]

Mr. Rodriguez: I have just returned from the Yukon, and the nurses I have spoken with are extremely reasonable people, and the community in the Yukon is completely behind the nurses. Is the minister prepared to reconsider his obviously unacceptable decision, which will only result in hardship for the nurses and the patients?

Mr. Chrétien: Everyone in Canada knows that I am a very reasonable man, too.

REPORT OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION INDICATING
VIOLATIONS OF MERIT PRINCIPLE IN APPOINTMENTS—
GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board, and it has to do with the annual report released by the Public Service Commission. That report indicates that one out of every four appointments in the civil service, and I am quoting from the report, "may constitute an actual or potential violation of the merit principle". In addition to this there are another 2,754 cases cited as failures to carry out the administrative directives issued by the commission. In view of these statements and reports by a reputable commission, is the minister carrying out an investigation to ensure that the integrity of the public service has not been violated, particularly with respect to the merit principle in the hiring and promotion of public servants?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the instructions are specific on the subject. There may have been some cases of violation, as was stated in the report, but they were not voluntary. Directives on the subject are clear and specific. Naturally, the hon. member is entitled to question the chairman of the Public Service Commission if he wishes to obtain further explanations on the subject.

[English]

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Unfortunately, the chairman of the Public Service Commission is not in the House this afternoon to put questions to, but the President of the Treasury Board is. Would the minister then advise the House what steps were taken or will be taken to rectify this? Has he caused any investigation to be made of this to see whether the merit principle has in fact been violated, to what extent it has been violated and who has suffered as a result of the violation? Is the minister planning any investigation at all, or does he intend just to slough this off on the chairman of the Public Service Commission.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I am not in charge of the Public Service Commission. The directives concerning the