

Oral Questions

free collective bargaining system that we have in this country does the government have in mind?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member should make it clear that he is not quoting the minister when he used the word "unpatriotic". This seems to be a circumlocution and perhaps a fabrication by the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: On the question of the labour movement, and its leadership, I think all concerned citizens are entitled to ask those questions just as the labour movement asks itself questions constantly about the leadership the government is giving. I think any citizen and particularly those interested in the future of the labour movement should be asking themselves these questions. They are not right, *ex cathedra*, because they are doing something. I think the country is evolving, institutions are evolving. The government has indicated it has certain studies under way to try to better understand the way things are evolving. I see nothing wrong, on the contrary, with the minister saying that in so many words.

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● (1420)

POST OFFICE

STRIKE OF INSIDE WORKERS—SUGGESTION NEGOTIATIONS BE CONDUCTED BY PRESIDENT OF TREASURY BOARD RATHER THAN POSTMASTER GENERAL

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The Postmaster General's words were "fighting the nation". When a critic of a government is said to take an anti-nation stand that amounts to saying he is unpatriotic.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, may I direct my final supplementary question to the Prime Minister? Given this attitude on the part of the Postmaster General, and the crucial importance of having a fair-minded person conducting negotiations with the postal workers so that the postal service can be restored, will the Prime Minister, in all seriousness, not consider reverting responsibility for these negotiations to where it belonged in the first place, to the President of the Treasury Board?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I assert again that the government has entire confidence in the abilities of the Postmaster General.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Since he is not here, since I have not read his speech but heard the hon. member quoting and read some quotations, I think the minister might be given the chance to send a copy of his speech to the hon. member. I repeat: in a society in which every day the labour movement and, indeed, the NDP can criticize the government of

[Mr. Broadbent.]

the country, I see nothing wrong with another citizen talking about the future of the labour movement—

Mr. Broadbent: Not even when he says they are against the nation?

Mr. Trudeau:—and asking himself if the course they are on is a productive one for the future of this nation.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

REQUEST THAT FLUID MILK SUBSIDY BE RE-ESTABLISHED

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Yesterday, in reply to a question I directed to him, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs suggested that I should advertise to convince Canadians to drink more milk. I wish therefore to respond to his invitation by directing a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Considering that our milk powder surplus may result from our fluid milk surpluses being channelled towards milk-processing industries, may I ask the minister whether he is willing to suggest to his Cabinet colleagues to restore the grant on the quart of fluid milk, in order to increase milk consumption and reduce the amount of milk channelled towards processing plants?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): No, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

As his answer was very short, I should like to ask the minister if, given the fact that this policy has been applied for two years and that the government has thus paid \$108 million to the consumers, the government considers it has made a mistake at that time and does not want to repeat it today?

[English]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, that policy was initiated two years ago when we had not adopted social services more advanced than those of any nation in the world. Those services were adopted after the policy was announced.

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SPORTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO EDMONTON ESKIMOS ON WINNING GREY CUP

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence, may I congratulate both teams for their gentleman-like and sporting manner of participating in the Grey Cup classic last Sunday, particularly my old team, the Edmonton Eskimos, who again distinguished themselves in a manner worthy of the great teams of the past, and you, Mr. Speaker for your attending with Mrs.