

Postal Contract with Lapalme Transfer

minister, in a somewhat precipitous and unilateral way, decided to cancel their contract. Were Rod Services reimbursed or recompensed in any way? Was their equipment purchased? If that was done, Mr. Speaker, then a most important question has to be asked. When the minister proposed to cancel the contract with Rod Services, and if he proposed and agreed to recompense them, did he make any provision, before these new arrangements with the new company were completed, under which former employees of Rod Services will be employed by the new company, and did he make any arrangements or give consideration to compensating the employees of Rod Services who would be laid off?

Surely that is an important question, Mr. Speaker. How did the minister propose to deal with the company whose contract was cancelled, and how did he propose to deal with its employees? Was he proposing to deal with them on an equally equitable basis at the same time?

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we are glad that this problem has been settled, and we hope that we will not see the minister on his feet in the next few days discussing another problem in another city.

[Translation]

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, on account of the incredible mess in which the Post Office Department finds itself since the beginning of that dispute, we remain somewhat puzzled while the minister announces that he has at last solved the problem in part. If that is true, however, we can only rejoice. We would like to be sure that the new agreement will not mark the beginning of another messy situation.

The house has probably learned that the Ralliement Cr ditiste met in Montreal Sunday night and that its members heard about the mess now to be found in the Post Office Department, especially in Canada's metropolis.

We were told that the official report of the House of Commons Debates for Tuesday—that was the Ralliement Cr ditiste's field-day—had not yet reached Montreal, whereas that for Wednesday had been received. We are anxious to know the reason for the delay.

In any case, we are only too happy if that settlement can help the minister find some solutions. For instance, we might suggest, if the trucks of Rod Services Ltd. have been bought, that they could be used as mobile post offices, since the department intends to close a very large number of post offices.

[Mr. Orlikow.]

INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETINGS

TABLING OF REPORT OF CANADA-U.S.
INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, as deputy co-president of the Canada-United States interparliamentary group, I am pleased to present, in English and in French, the report of the said committee. I beg unanimous consent of the house to have the proceedings of the meetings printed in Appendix to today's *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Editor's Note: For Report above referred to, see appendix.]

[English]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**EXTERNAL AID**

BIAFRA—DESTRUCTION OF CANAIRELIEF
MERCY AIRCRAFT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Acting Prime Minister if he is aware of a telegram received by the Secretary of State for External Affairs from Canairelief charging that Nigerian jets have been directed to destroy Canairelief mercy planes and suggesting that Nigeria is opposing construction of an airport for use exclusively by relief planes? Will he say specifically what representations Canada intends to make, with a view to protecting Canadians now engaged in mercy flights in Nigeria-Biafra?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. gentleman for giving notice of his intention to ask this question. Unfortunately I did not have sufficient time before two o'clock to go into it as fully as I would like. Under the circumstances I would suggest that I take it as notice and ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs to deal with it tomorrow, when I expect he will be back in the house.

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary question I wonder if the Acting Prime Minister, in drawing this matter to the attention of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, would be prepared to suggest that the government take the very unique opportunity offered by the visit of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to Lagos to make representations to