

field, the Government of Canada has every intention of dealing with its employees just as it does with all other workers governed by the Canada Labour Code.

[English]

PROTECTION OF WORKERS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is obviously the same question to the same Minister. Hon. Members of the Conservative Party do not seem to be very concerned about occupational safety in the Public Service. Will the same legislation provide protection for federal Government workers as it does for other workers who come under federal labour legislation? Will those workers have the same legislative protection?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I would urge the Hon. Member to be patient, for he will have an answer to his question as soon as we introduce amendments to Part IV of the Labour Code.

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AIR TRANSPORT

AGREEMENT WITH QUEBEC GOVERNMENT ON TRAINING AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport.

Six weeks ago, I think, I sent a letter to the Minister of Transport stating the concerns of a Quebec CEGEP after a representative of the Department of Transport in Quebec had announced the department's plan to cancel training courses for air traffic controllers in the Province. Since the Chouinard inquiry has stressed the need for such courses to train bilingual controllers, can the Minister assure us today that these courses which were to be given under an agreement entered into with the Quebec Government and valid for the next three years will be maintained? Will the agreement be respected? Can the Minister tell us whether he really intends to cancel this training course for air traffic controllers in Quebec?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, all the students enrolled in the programs at this time have agreed to complete their air traffic controller training at the Cornwall College. We have discussed the possibility of maintaining the air traffic controller courses with various CEGEP representatives and with the Quebec Departments of Transport and Education. I shall be meeting Mr. Clair Thursday of this week to discuss this matter.

Mr. La Salle: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

I do believe that all my colleagues from Quebec and all the Members of this House are interested in this matter. Am I to

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understand that the Minister is willing to recommend that these courses be continued in Quebec since, according to the Chouinard report, nearly 300 air traffic controllers had to be trained there? As only 75 have now been trained, I would think the Minister will be able to tell us today whether he intends to maintain this training course in Quebec without reducing the importance of the course also being given in Cornwall.

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Speaker, I have received several representations from the Hon. Member for Saint-Jean about this matter, but we must look at the applications for air traffic controller courses, and after having done so and having discussed the issue with Mr. Clair, we shall decide on the future of these programs.

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● (1520)

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SYRIA—TREATMENT OF JEWISH POPULATION

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. No doubt he has seen correspondence directed to him or his Department from various Jewish groups throughout Canada, as well as from Members of Parliament on this side, concerning a Mrs. Lillian Abadi and her two children, who were brutally murdered in Syria in December. These Jewish groups have indicated their concern and fear for the 4,500 Jews now in Syria. Has the Government made any representations to Syria, admittedly on humanitarian grounds, to see whether or not it would be willing to allow Jews to move if they wish, presumably to Israel, possibly Canada, or the United States?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we are aware of the concern which exists and which has been expressed by the Hon. Member and others. We take whatever steps we think will be effective in dealing with the Syrian situation. It is not a question which can be the subject of repeated or forceful representations because at times we have to guarantee the steps we take will be helpful rather than hurtful. However, within that framework we do our very best to assist cases such as he mentioned.

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT MAKE REPRESENTATIONS

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, the Minister would admit that he was pretty vague and general in his answer to me. Perhaps he could be a little more explicit. What steps is the Minister taking in this particular case? Is he using Canada's good will, for example, with the Government of Syria? Have we put forward the case for allowing Jews in Syria to