

FARE INCREASES BY AIRLINES AND BY CANADIAN PACIFIC
FOR COMMUTER SERVICE—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): A supplementary question. On Friday April 18, the minister stated that he would ask Air Canada and CPAir to reassess their proposals to raise domestic air fares some 8 per cent to 15 per cent with some rising as high as 61 per cent, to be effective on May 19, and that he would also ask CP Rail, which filed a 26 per cent increase in Montreal commuter fares to reassess their position. In order to assure that these different modes of transport will heed the words of the minister, could the acting minister ask him to consult with other members of cabinet with a view to putting some kind of clout in this position and that of the government to show that they are prepared to do battle on inflation and defer these increases where they do not meet or are not consistent with the government's attitude toward inflation?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Acting Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am quite certain that the representations to which the Minister of Transport referred last week have been transmitted to the airlines. The hon. member also involved commuter fares in his question, but I am sure he knows there is a difference in approach in the filing of fares with regard to air traffic as opposed to rail, so the approach must differ in each case. I can say for myself and for the Minister of Transport that we will make the strongest possible representations to the transport companies with a view to getting them to conform, as we hope others will, with the government's objectives regarding inflation and increasing prices.

* * *

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, which deals with his two colleagues, the hon. member for Saskatoon-Humboldt and the hon. member for Langelier who are wandering around western Canada now. Can the Acting Prime Minister indicate which of those two gentlemen will be speaking for the government on questions of transportation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I did not understand the purport of the hon. gentleman's question. Perhaps he would put it in a little clearer language.

Mr. Baldwin: With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I am talking about the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Transport. When these two gentlemen make statements at variance with each other, which is speaking for the government on questions of transport?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I am sure I could answer that question better if I had some evidence of the contradiction.

Mr. Baldwin: Which speaks for Transport?

Oral Questions

[Translation]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

STRIKE OF LONGSHOREMEN IN QUEBEC—MEASURES TO
ASSURE SUPPLY OF FEED GRAIN

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I want to put a question to the Acting Prime Minister.

In view of the longshoremen's strike and, more recently, the checkers' strike which have been paralysing the movement of grain in the ports of Quebec, since also these strikes have caused irreparable prejudice to Quebec cattle producers and since grain handlers are not on strike, may I ask the Acting Prime Minister whether immediate measures will be taken to give easier access to the ports to grain handlers, so that they may proceed to the loading of the trucks which supply mills and through them farmers, because this matter is extremely serious and, on behalf of Quebec farm producers, I would like to ask the Acting Prime Minister to assure that this matter will receive serious consideration by the Cabinet.

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may answer the hon. member's question. We realize how very serious this particular problem is, and it is the government's intention to take as immediate action as possible to resolve this dispute.

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a supplementary question.

As the Minister of Labour probably knows, injunctions of the court have been issued to clear the access to elevators and these orders were not respected. Can the Minister of Labour say whether discussions were held between his department and the provincial department, with whom lies the enforcement of the injunctions so that they can be respected?

[English]

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, those who have taken out the injunctions are considering the necessary legal remedies that can be taken against those disobeying them. I am not aware of precisely what happened, but I know that type of consideration has been given and is being given.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): A last supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Since the *raison d'être* of a government is to set order where there is disorder, may I ask the Minister of Labour whether this important matter relating to the problem caused by the strikes in the harbours of Quebec has been discussed by the cabinet, whether he considers this problem of national interest, and whether an immediate solution will be advocated to settle it?

[English]

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Subject to proper consent being given, Mr. Speaker, we intend to move ahead today with necessary legislation that we hope will resolve this dispute. I think this is indicative of how seriously this government regards this particular problem.