

the Minister of Transport. In view of press reports concerning discussions on a possible change in the ownership of Air Canada, and in view of the fact that a government committee is studying this matter, can the minister say whether a decision has yet been made and, if not, what is the position at the present time?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Is my hon. friend referring to the Winnipeg overhaul base or to the whole system?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): No, Mr. Speaker, I was referring to the discussions that have been reported of a possible change in the ownership of Air Canada.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, there has been no change since the last time the question was asked and answered. The same answer has been given, I think, twice this session. Although the government is considering the future form of the corporate structure of the company, this is not a question which can be considered lightly. It has very serious implications regardless of the decision that may be made and therefore will require some time for study. No decision is imminent, but I do hope that perhaps some time next year or in the early months of next year we will be able to make some sort of a position statement in respect of it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Could we be assured that parliament will have an opportunity to express its view on this matter before we are presented with a *fait accompli*?

Mr. Hellyer: I think that is a reasonable request, Mr. Speaker. I am sure an opportunity will be provided. New legislation would be required in any event so that parliament would have its full say in respect of any change in the corporate structure. I am very pleased to give my hon. friend an undertaking that an opportunity will be provided to discuss it.

[Translation]

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

In reply to question No. 623, the Minister of Transport said that the administrative offices of Air Canada in Winnipeg would be moved.

Has that branch anything to do with the maintenance of the Viscounts, which entails a deficit of \$10 million by staying in Winnipeg instead of being transferred to Montreal?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: The supplementary question should also be put on the order paper.

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

WINDSOR, ONT.—REPORT ON MEETING RESPECTING LAY-OFFS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Is he prepared to report on a recent meeting between the representatives of the government and the United Auto Workers concerning lay-offs in Windsor? In particular, can the minister say what undertaking the government gave this delegation with regard to alleviating this crisis?

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): As the hon. member intimates, Mr. Speaker, I had a meeting with representatives of that union yesterday. We had a very fruitful meeting. Many suggestions came out of that meeting, some advanced by the government and some by the union. I am not, however, prepared to state anything specific today. When and if there are any changes in government policy, they will be announced in the appropriate manner in the house next week.

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister give a date to the house on which he may be able to present any promises he made to the delegation concerning the eligibility of the union members for temporary assistance benefits?

Mr. Mackasey: No, Mr. Speaker, I would not be prepared to give any particular date. It would depend on the rate of progress.

COMMUNICATIONS

REPORTS ON SATELLITE DESIGN STUDIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): My question is directed to the Postmaster General, Mr. Speaker. Can the Postmaster General advise the house to whom R.C.A. Victor and Northern Electric delivered their reports following surveys they made on behalf of the government with regard to Canada's satellite?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, late yesterday afternoon I received copies of the reports.

Mr. Hales: A supplementary question. Did some member of the government or an official