

[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS

AIR CANADA STRIKE—REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT INTERVENE IMMEDIATELY

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport or the Minister of Labour.

The disruption of Air Canada's services has been a great inconvenience to the Canadian public, but with the holiday season approaching, the situation is getting even worse because of the large number of people who are trying to join their families. What started as a series of rotating strikes has turned into a general lock-out as a result of a decision by Air Canada's top management. Now, Air Canada is a Crown Corporation, owned by Canadians and managed on their behalf by the Government.

I would like to ask the Government to intervene and to instruct Air Canada to suspend its lock-out immediately until mid-January, so that thousands of Canadians can join their families, and also to instruct both parties to continue their negotiations during this moratorium. Is the Government prepared to take this step?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows perfectly well we have already intervened in this conflict, and I am referring to last Friday when I appointed Mr. Bill Kelly as mediator.

I can inform the Hon. Member and this House that Mr. Kelly has been very busy meeting with the parties since yesterday, and, Mr. Speaker, I dare say we all hope the parties will act responsibly and negotiate a settlement as soon as possible, so that all Canadians will be able to travel in this country without any trouble.

[English]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER ASK AIR CANADA TO SUSPEND LOCK-OUT

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, mediation, although started too late, is a great thing. I agree. I have been calling for it. I would like to say that this is not enough for people who are stranded, who want to make sure they will be able to reunite with their families. I am asking the Minister to move in and instruct Air Canada to suspend, between now and mid-January, the lock-out it has imposed so as to give some sort of guarantee to Canadians that they can go home and meet with their families at Christmas and on New Year's Day, like we all want to do.

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I think every one agrees there is great inconvenience being caused to a lot of travelling Canadians right now in this country because of this dispute between Air Canada and its employees. Nevertheless, and I have said this to my hon. colleague in other disputes before, there is a Canada Labour

Oral Questions

Code which is being applied right now. The parties have both used legal means in order to impose economic pressures on one another. We have moved as quickly as we could in this particular case.

I would like to remind my hon. colleague that in the last conflict he was accusing us of moving too quickly.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): I never said that in my life. How could you act too quickly?

Mr. Cadieux: This time we have followed the dispute very closely and I think that the parties, who know their responsibilities and who are with the mediator right now, hopefully will come to a settlement within the next hours.

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TRADE

CANADA—U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—INCLUSION OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. I want to quote directly from page 203 of his vaunted agreement which includes the various services, which are part of what we have agreed to in free trade with the United States. One item, and I quote directly, is health care facilities management services. In view of that very direct quote, does the Prime Minister in fact deny what the Leader of my Party said, that the health care management system of this country has been laid open by this agreement which has been set forth?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the Hon. Member, the Hon. Member knows that under the agreement, Canada has the full right to have whatever health system it wants. That has been established very clearly through a long period of history going back to the Hospital Act as well as the medicare Act and confirmed by the Canada Health Act.

What the Hon. Member is trying to put forward to Canadians is the matter of management. Surely, he knows, coming from Ontario, that there are a number, for instance, of nursing care homes which are in private hands and privately managed. He also knows, for example, that there has been one example in Ontario in terms of public management of a hospital. For him to try to make the quantum leap from a health system to the argument on the point of management, I think he should re-examine what in fact he is trying to do.

OMISSION OF DAY CARE SERVICES

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): That is precisely the point. These health care services are under provincial jurisdiction and that is the point my Leader was making in his opening statement. We left out in this same document quite explicitly day care services. Why did we not