

its decision to allow work to continue on the James Bay project, will the minister say what immediate action the government will take to ensure that no further irreparable damage is caused to the life style of these native people who come within federal jurisdiction?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the proceedings are going on. The Indians have announced that they intend to go to the Supreme Court of Canada and we cannot interfere with the courts. We will listen to the judgment of the court. In the meantime, the decision of the court today proved once more that we were right a year ago when we urged the two parties to negotiate a settlement. We are still negotiating, and I hope there will not be too many backseat drivers to interfere.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, that vehicle has not got very far along the road yet. In view of the minister's expressed satisfaction with Mr. Justice Malouf's decision, will the minister undertake to appear at the appeal before the Supreme Court of Canada to support openly the Indian case if the native people request him to do so? Will he give that undertaking?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt that a question asked in those terms can be acceptable procedurally as it is, of course, hypothetical.

Mr. Chrétien: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I should like to say to the hon. member that there are no witnesses at those hearings.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GARRISON DAM DIVERSION, NORTH DAKOTA—FURTHER ACTION BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT—CONSIDERATION BY INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of the Environment and the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact the diplomatic note from the government of Canada to the government of the United States concerning a moratorium on the construction of a dam and irrigation project in the state of North Dakota has been rejected by the United States government, since the construction continues, can the Prime Minister inform the House, in view of the very serious effects this could have on the rivers in Canada, what further action the government is going to take on this matter?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to take notice of the question on behalf of the ministers.

Oral Questions

Mr. Knight: In view of the fact the United States irrigation project could pollute the Red River and the Souris River within the jurisdiction of Canada, can the Prime Minister inform the House if the International Joint Commission and the Canadian members thereof have been instructed to indicate clearly Canada's opposition to the breaking of the Boundary Waters Treaty by the United States?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I cannot say. Again, I will have to take note of the question on behalf of the ministers.

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AIR CANADA

CHARGES BY AIRLINE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION—REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT INQUIRY

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Due to the damaging charges made by the Canadian Airline Employees Association against Air Canada and its operations, will the minister order an independent inquiry to investigate the charges?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I should like to know what charges the hon. member is referring to.

Mr. McKenzie: The document was delivered to the minister's office this morning. In light of the criticism and complaints coming from the public, employees and members of parliament about the whole Air Canada operation, is the minister considering calling for the resignation of Mr. Pratte and his 18 vice-presidents?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): No, Mr. Speaker.

POSSIBLE REORGANIZATION OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE—APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRESIDENT

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware of any initiatives currently being undertaken by the chairman of Air Canada to reorganize the senior management structure of the corporation, the results of which would modify the structure of the senior management so that a president would no longer be necessary?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the only thing I can say is that I have had discussions with the chairman of Air Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps we should limit supplementary questions. There are just two or three minutes left before the end of the question period. The hon. member may ask a supplementary and then I shall see the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the minister has had discussions with the chairman of Air Canada, is he in a position to announce a replacement for