

contract as the letter carriers obtained. They, I believe, will ratify their contract this evening. If the negotiating team would sit down and bargain in good faith, instead of establishing as their priority the settling of local issues in Montreal, particularly the case of the 39 people who have been disciplined, matters would be helped. I have no intention of backing away from that matter, in return for a settlement.

ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTIONS OF MEMBERS OF UNION OF
POSTAL WORKERS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the problem the Postmaster General has outlined and in view of the damage to the Canadian economy, particularly to small businessmen, which is resulting from the so-called sporadic study sessions being encouraged by certain post office union officials—obviously this is not a study in pursuit of the Ph.D. degree meaning post haste delivery.

Mr. Fairweather: What's that?

Mr. Dinsdale: In view of the evidence of violence within the CUPW, as indicated by the vandalism inflicted on the house of the national secretary treasurer recently, what action has the Postmaster General taken to deal with these illegal actions?

● (1430)

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, there are several illegal acts to which the hon. member has referred. First, I can understand the frustration of the members who have booked off sick in various regions of the country today because of the slowness of the bargaining procedures. If I, as an intimate friend of the labour movement, had any advice to them, it is to direct their attention to the bargaining team which is not bargaining in good faith rather than upset the economy of the particular regions by walking off the job and hurting innocent victims by what is really an internal problem which the union must learn to solve.

In so far as the damage and the vandalism done to the home of the secretary treasurer of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, this is unfortunate since he is a very responsible leader who has been associated with that union for seven or eight years. I do not pretend to know who is responsible, other than to say the pattern is very familiar since the same thing happened to five or six supervisors in the Montreal area. Possibly this union leader now understands the turmoil and anguish of the innocent supervisors who simply try to carry out their job and are subject to the same type of harassment. Again, it is the problem of the unions. The 95 per cent who are decent, law-abiding citizens will sooner or later have to stand up and be counted and rid their own house of the 5 per cent who have no place in the legitimate trade union in the first instance.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

[Translation]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

CONSULTATION WITH QUEBEC MINISTER ON JURISDICTION
ON CONSTRUCTION SITES

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour.

In order to enhance an orderly and real social climate in Quebec through concrete action, is the minister negotiating with his Quebec counterpart regarding jurisdiction on federal projects in Quebec, such as Mirabel, and is he ready to yield his jurisdiction in the matter? If so, under what conditions?

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): No, Mr. Speaker. With reference to that particular problem, I am not in discussion with my colleague from Quebec. I am under the impression he feels that he and his colleagues in the Quebec government can handle the situation.

[Translation]

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Labour.

Is the Minister ready to accept the proposal of an early meeting with Commissioners Cliche, Mulroney and Chevrette, in order to deal with this special matter of jurisdiction on federal projects in Quebec and with the Cliche report as a whole, so as to enable the federal government to get better guidance in seeking the socio-economic leadership which the country needs so much?

[English]

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as I feel that this is very largely, if not entirely, a matter within provincial jurisdiction, which I am sure the hon. member is fully aware of and sensitive to, I feel the initiative would have to come from the province of Quebec with regard to any involvement by the federal government in terms of assistance of any kind.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SHIP REPAIR UNIT—
GOVERNMENT POSITION ON PAYMENT OF PREVAILING RATES

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the President of the Treasury Board. Is the minister aware of the breakdown in negotiations between the negotiators in his department and the ship repair unit of the Dockyards Trades and Labour Council from Esquimalt on the west coast and Halifax on the east coast, which has been working on a settlement for four months now?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I have no specific statement to make at this time. The procedures provided for settling those disputes are well known. If the parties cannot settle them through negotiations, they can choose between arbitration or conciliation.