

*Oral Questions*

inform the House whether the cabinet has yet given approval to these proposals by Air Canada?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Whatever type of aircraft Air Canada is going to buy we shall see to it there is some economic benefit to Canada.

**Mr. Stackhouse:** In spite of the minister's assurance, may I ask him to tell the House whether the cabinet is willing to see the aerospace industry in the metropolitan Toronto area deprived of contracts upon which it is dependent?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** I do not know who is going to benefit, Toronto or Winnipeg, but I am sure it will be a Canadian city.

● (1500)

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRESIDENT—  
DELAY IN OTTAWA-TORONTO FLIGHT

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** I have a supplementary question for the minister, Mr. Speaker. In view of the very large number of urgent questions facing Air Canada, will the minister nominate a new president very shortly?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** I hope very soon, Mr. Speaker. We do not nominate the president, but I hope one will be nominated very soon.

**Mr. Nesbitt:** In the meanwhile, would the minister look into the reason an Air Canada plane, flight 456, last Monday night, bound for Toronto with a full load of passengers, was kept on the ground for two and a half hours? The reason given was that they could not find a crew to fly it.

POSSIBLE STRIKE BY FLIGHT ATTENDANTS—STATE OF  
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also addressed to the Minister of Transport. In light of continued threats of a possible strike by Air Canada flight attendants, can the minister assure the House that a satisfactory contract will be reached in the near future so that thousands of holidaying Canadians will not be forced to cancel their vacation travel plans during the forthcoming winter?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I hope that a settlement will be reached soon.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

EFFECT OF MANAGEMENT POLICIES ON RAILWAY  
SERVICE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—REQUEST FOR REPORT  
ON GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Transport. On October 18, in response to my question about sending the transport committee to Vancouver to study the myriad problems associated with Canadian National rail service in that area of Canada, the minister replied that he would "call the

[Mr. Stackhouse.]

presidents of CN and CP and ask them what they were doing to correct the situation". Flowing from that, may I ask the minister whether or not he has yet had an opportunity to speak to the presidents of these railroads, and when B.C. can expect improved rail service?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I did meet, not with the chairmen but with the vice-presidents of both railways, and I asked them to do all they could in order to get some cars for British Columbia. I think they are working hard to get lumber cars back from the United States more rapidly than at present. They are supposed to be making a report to me shortly, so I will know if what they are doing is really efficient.

**Mr. Rose:** I am pleased with the minister's response, but I would remind him that there are more problems in the west than boxcars. In view of the fact that track and section forces in the CN northern region have only 55 men currently employed in maintaining 715 miles of track instead of the normal 150 men employed on this maintenance, does the minister intend to look into the matter to ensure the safety of the public, especially with winter fast approaching?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** I will look into that aspect as well, Mr. Speaker.

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GRAIN

PROVISION OF BOXCARS AT SHIPPING POINTS IN  
WESTERN CANADA—ALLOCATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. Having regard to the fact that the Minister of Transport indicated in the House last week, after meeting with officials of both railways, that the railways would undertake to provide sufficient boxcars for movement of grain, may I ask the minister in charge of the Wheat Board what steps he or his officials are taking to ensure that boxcars will be provided at those points in western Canada which have not yet received a boxcar since the conclusion of the strike?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, various meetings with the railways resulted in the allocation of additional numbers of cars, particularly in the case of the CNR, for movement of grain. Those cars will be placed by the Canadian Wheat Board, operating through the block shipment system, in the most effective way in order to move the grain as required and as quickly as required.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Vegreville on a supplementary, then the Leader of the Opposition and then the hon. member for Rimouski.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** In view of the fact that a number of delivery points have not received a single boxcar since the conclusion of the railway strike, has the minister done an