

*Oral Questions***BENEFIT CONTROL—INQUIRY AS TO FURTHER REPORT BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, it has been some time since we have heard of the advisory committee to the commission that is examining reported overzealousness. Can the minister give any indication of how far the committee has proceeded with the investigation of claimants' complaints and just how long it will be before its report will be tabled?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I have been advised that the activities of the advisory committee are proceeding well. I understand they have some very specific meetings scheduled for the middle of May and that they are hopeful of giving me their final report before the end of this month.

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[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS**DAVIE SHIPBUILDING LOCKOUT—REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES NOT BE FORCED TO CROSS PICKET LINE**

Mr. John Harney (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works about the present lock-out at the shipyards of Davie Shipbuilding Limited in Lauzon, Quebec.

The staff on his department employed at the dry dock of this yard being in complete sympathy with their coworkers who are barred from work, can the minister assure the House that his department is not pressuring its employees to force them to cross the picket lines?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, we called on our employees to return to work twice. They refused to do so, saying that they might be subjected to pressures, even physically. So we stopped requesting them to return. We do not intend to bring pressure upon them to force them back to work.

Mr. Harney: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that the lock-out at Davie Shipbuilding Limited is now illegal since no lock-out or strike can be staged legally before May 12?

Mr. Dubé: Mr. Speaker, it is not up to us to determine whether it is a lock-out or a strike, or whether it is illegal or not. We merely requested that our employees return to work. They have refused and we have no intention to exert any pressure on them to do so.

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[English]

POST OFFICE**STEPS TO DETERMINE CAUSE OF DELAYS IN MAIL DELIVERY**

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Postmaster General. In view of the fact that delays in mail delivery are becoming worse week by week, and in view of the fact I received a letter on

[Mr. Andras.]

Wednesday, May 9, marked "rush" that was mailed at Gainsborough, Saskatchewan on April 28, some 12 days earlier, would the minister advise what steps, if any, are being taken by the Post Office Department to determine the cause of delays in mail delivery, and when can the citizens of Canada expect to begin to receive their mail within a reasonable time after mailing?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, a businessman who can guarantee 99 per cent efficiency of his operation is doing very well indeed. I would remind the hon. member that the Post Office Department deals with some 5 billion items a year, which would justify an average of 16,000 complaints a day. I do not believe we receive such a number. I therefore want to assure the hon. member that postal service on the whole is very good and if this particular incident occurred I regret it and we shall endeavour to find a solution to the problem.

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[English]

AIRPORTS**WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL—SUGGESTED UPGRADING AS ALTERNATIVE TO PICKERING SITE—SECURING OF NEW ROUTES FROM WINNIPEG TO UNITED STATES**

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of the government's expressed search for policies to remove discrimination against western Canada, and in view of the opposition of the majority of Pickering residents to the establishment of an international airport there, can the minister inform the House as to what efforts he is making to upgrade the international airport at Winnipeg as an alternative to the Pickering site?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we have never considered that Winnipeg would be a substitute or alternative for Toronto.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister this question at least. Is he encouraging access to mid-western and western United States cities by Canadian air carriers operating from the strategically located mid-continent international airport at Winnipeg and, if so, when can we expect success from these representations?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I think the hon. member knows this is part of the negotiations which are being carried on now with the United States and we hope to obtain new routes and partly from Winnipeg to a certain number of points in the United States.