

Oral Questions

cation from Air Canada about this strange behaviour on the part of one of their representatives.

● (1450)

Since this matter does reflect the unsatisfactory state of labour-management relations at the Montreal-Dorval Air Canada setup, will the minister, in consultation with the Minister of Labour give consideration to referring this question of labour-management relations to either the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications or the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the information I got from Air Canada is that this corporation has never instructed its legal adviser to hold that stance before the Canada Labour Relations Board. Therefore, that stance has been a purely personal one, and Air Canada dissociates itself completely from what has been said.

Mr. Watson: Mr. Speaker, Air Canada may well try to sneak out of the position it took publicly at that labour relations board hearing by denying responsibility for the statement of its representative. In any event, among the things Air Canada did at that hearing which reflects its attitude toward labour-management relations was, in violation of its own regulations which require payment of salary to employees appearing as court witnesses, the refusal to pay employees who appeared that day as subpoenaed witnesses on behalf of Mr. Morrison. I wish to raise this matter at ten o'clock and discuss it at that time.

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. Was the legal counsel involved a regular employee of Air Canada or was he picked from the Quebec Liberal patronage list?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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TRANSPORT

FREIGHT RATES ON RAPESEED—MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR A DECISION—DATE WHEN DECISION WILL BE MADE

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport on another matter. In view of the fact several rapeseed processing plants in western Canada, supported by three provincial governments, have been fighting the matter of freight rates on rapeseed meal and rapeseed oil since October 1970 and the Canadian Transport Commission made a ruling in June 1973 which the complainants, namely the companies and provinces, appealed to the cabinet, can the minister advise the House whether, as reported in the press, he has not turned over responsibility for freight rates on rapeseed and rapeseed products to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board? Also, does he share that minister's view that a cabinet decision on this matter is not likely to be made before the end of this year?

[Mr. Watson.]

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not believe I have transferred any of my responsibilities to any one of the ministers. I could not do it legally. Some responsibilities rest with ministers, others with the CTC, and again others with the cabinet. However, I assume mine, and Air Canada theirs. Therefore, I have noticed that lawyers are chosen as often among Progressive Conservatives, Social Crediters and New Democrats as among Liberals.

[English]

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, the minister chose to answer the question put by the previous questioner. That leaves him one question behind. He can probably answer mine after the next question. I remind the minister he is quoted as saying "it is Otto Lang's baby".

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

FREIGHT RATES ON RAPESEED—POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSION AT FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): That is one I hope he does not abort. Will the minister be placing before the provinces at the federal-provincial conference, which I understand will be on February 24, a proposal on this matter? If so, is he in a position to tell the House the nature of the proposal.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the agendas for those conferences are prepared by the ministers involved, including the Minister of Transport for Canada. As far as Otto Lang's babies are concerned, I really do not know their number, but I can assure hon. members that I am not the father of any of them.

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, this matter has been fought for and about by the people of the great prairie provinces for almost four and a half years. Cabinet has had this baby for almost a year and still has not made a decision. When will a decision be made by the cabinet? Is the minister in charge of the wheat board correct that there will not be a decision before the end of this year?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice will eventually be in this House. It would be preferable to address the question to him.

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[Translation]

IMMIGRATION

STATUS OF KAMINSKI FAMILY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Considering that a Polish family, the Kaminski family, with three young children, has been living in Canada since October 1974, and that a deportation notice has been given to them and that the family is now in a very difficult position, could the minister reveal to the House if