

Measure for Abolition of Court

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The House has heard the terms of the motion proposed pursuant to Standing Order 43. It cannot be debated without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There not being unanimous consent, the motion cannot be debated at this time.

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[Translation]

EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

CONCURRENCE IN SECOND REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Nipissing) moved that the second report of the Special Joint Committee on Employer-Employee Relations in the Public Service, presented to the House Tuesday, November 26, 1974, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

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ACT RESPECTING OFFICE OF SECRETARY TO THE CABINET FOR FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS AND CLERK OF PRIVY COUNCIL

MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR APPOINTMENT AND REMUNERATION

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-38, respecting the office of the Secretary to the Cabinet for Federal-Provincial Relations and respecting the Clerk of the Privy Council.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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[English]

ACT TO REVISE REFERENCES TO COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH OF PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MEASURE TO AMEND STATUTES IN VIEW OF ABOLITION OF COURT

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice) moved first reading of Bill S-16 (from the Senate), to revise references to the Court of Queen's Bench of the Province of Quebec.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

[Mr. Schellenberger.]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE

STRIKE OF GRAIN INSPECTORS—BASIS OF OFFER TO EMPLOYEES—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO SETTLE

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the fact it has been reported that the justification used by the federal Treasury Board for denying grain inspectors wage increases comparable to those given to grain handlers in Vancouver is based on the premise that the inspectors, who are federal employees, do work that is unrelated to the grain handlers who are employed by private grain companies, could the minister explain how this can in any way be considered logical? The federal government, by law, forced the private companies to pay an increase of between 54 per cent and 61 per cent, but now refuses to grant its own employees an equal increase to even one-quarter of the amount that was granted previously?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the grain inspectors have chosen to strike and they are perfectly entitled to do so. The board of conciliation presented both a majority report and a minority report. The latter, written out by a union representative, accomplished far less than the act passed last fall. I fail to see therefore why the Treasury Board should offer more than was suggested by the union representative to the conciliation board.

[English]

Mr. Murta: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary for the President of the Treasury Board. In all sincerity I say to him that I do not believe the government is aware of the seriousness of the present situation. In talking with grain company officials in Winnipeg this morning it became apparent that we are faced with loss of sales in the next two or three days unless something positive is done. Since the grain industry is being brought to its knees because of the strike, may I ask the minister what positive and immediate measures the government is considering in order to get grain moving again or does it intend just to sit around and wait?

● (1430)

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, the Parliament of Canada gave government employees the right to strike. I feel that it behoves us to respect that right as long as the Parliament of Canada does not withdraw it. That is why we asked a mediator to intervene this morning. We trust that we can achieve a settlement through standard procedures without being forced to withdraw the right to strike granted the public service by the Canadian Parliament.

[English]

Mr. Murta: Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Labour is absent, may I direct my supplementary question to the President of the Treasury Board. The President of the Treasury Board indicated that he hopes that an agreement