

Inquiries of the Ministry

service is unlawful, does he say that on the advice of a legal counsel from the Department of Labour or from his own department?

Mr. Kierans: Mr. Speaker, even the union representatives admit that their present activity is unlawful.

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): I want to put a supplementary question to the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications.

As it was said that new contractors were responsible for mail delivery, will the government find itself under the obligation to buy the trucks of G. Lapalme Inc.?

Mr. Kierans: In view of the fact that, last year, we granted a contract for one year only, it is necessary to assure now the contractor that if the contract is terminated at the end of the year, as we did, he cannot, of course, claim for tax purposes the full depreciation on the trucks. We shall accept, then, to buy his trucks if he is willing to sell them.

This strike is not only unlawful but I can add that at the present time the people of Montreal are blackmailed by the union members.

[*English*]

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question based upon the minister's conciliatory letter. Has the minister ascertained from the Minister of Manpower and Immigration that the unemployment situation in Montreal is such that he can obtain 350 drivers immediately?

Mr. Kierans: Yes. Mr. Speaker, you suggested a little earlier that I was brief in my statement. Perhaps you will permit me to welcome the hon. member for Hillsborough back to active service in the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, as an exchange of courtesies I should like to ask the Postmaster General if he would tell us, in relation to the contracts signed with other sub-contractors, does the department require re-employment of those persons already employed by Lapalme Inc.?

Mr. Kierans: Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for Sainte-Marie for his courtesy. I would say that this is not something that we do at any time. We simply ask for submissions and tenders and award the contracts in accordance with the law to the

[*Mr. Fortin.*]

lowest tenderers, while taking into account such conditions as capability, financial stability and so on. This is what we have done. Their arrangement with that particular union, whether it be the Teamsters, CNTU or any other union, is their affair. I could not myself—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Kierans: Mr. Speaker—

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that we ought perhaps to go on to another subject, because there are only two minutes left before the end of the oral question period.

[*English*]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

APPLICATION RESPECTING FLOODING OF
LAND NEAR SKAGIT RIVER

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Perhaps he could take it as notice. Has the city of Seattle applied to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources for an exemption under the International River Improvements Act to allow the Seattle Power and Light Company to flood Canadian territory by raising the height of the dam on the Skagit River?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think that is a proper question for the Order Paper.

CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY

NORTHWEST PASSAGE—PREPARATION OF
REGULATIONS RESPECTING NAVIGATION
AND POLLUTION

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Can the minister tell the House if his department is preparing appropriate regulations with respect to navigation and pollution in the area known as the Northwest Passage. Also, is he providing for appropriate navigational aids in the areas?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder how urgent this question is. It seems to me that this question and the one asked previously might be the types of questions which normally ought to be placed on the Order Paper.

Mr. Nesbitt: With respect, Mr. Speaker, Your Honour will perhaps recall that a