

*Adjournment Debate*

(Mr. Dinsdale) because the government has no time to waste.

I would say that the Postmaster General (Mr. Ouellet) is appearing before the Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates where he is discussing a most important bill and I think that since he was previously engaged he was bound to discharge his duty. He cannot be in two different places at the same time.

I am truly flattered to see that the hon. member for Brandon-Souris has suddenly discovered the new mail boxes which are used at the same time to inform the public at large of the modern structure of one of the best postal services in the world. I am glad he noted this innovation but I regret he did not understand the message largely diffused and which explained the advantages and efficiency of this service.

Those changes are derived from a long-term planning program undertaken by the department over the last few years. In fact, Canada is the first country in the world to offer a service such as guaranteed mail—the distribution of first-class mail as early as the day following its mailing and this throughout the country. When one considers the vastness of this country, one must admit that this is a rather extraordinary achievement.

As explained through advertising and in the individual folders, the coloured stripes on the mail boxes are indicative of the services offered. Each box bears one, two or three coloured stripes and each one indicates a mailing limit. The blue stripe indicates the time limit for national mail, that intended for the most remote centers in the country. Because of the distance which this mail must cover people are requested to mail their letters earlier in the day. If the customer meets this requirement, we undertake to deliver his mail on the next delivery day.

The white stripe indicates a later time limit for regional mail, whereas the mauve stripe pertains to local mail. This latter service is new and is designed to add a new dimension to the mail services given our clients.

Finally, we have endeavoured to give our clients the opportunity to avail themselves of the best possible service by indicating clearly on our mail boxes the type and nature of services offered. Is this not what businesses do to publicize their prices?

I shall convey to the minister the comments of my hon. friend and mention his aggressiveness, though, having known him for a long time, I am sure that down deep he knows that we have the best service in the world; basically, that is why we have considerable admiration for hon. members of the opposition who do not always say what they think, but who quite often mean what they say!

● (2210)

[English]

AIR CANADA—ALLEGED USE OF NON UNION PERSONNEL BY COMPANY DURING STRIKE—REQUEST FOR LEAVE TO PROSECUTE

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 13, I asked the following questions of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro) in respect of the strike of the Air Canada finance section in Winnipeg which was at that

time in its seventh week, and I received the following answers. I said:

In answer to questions in the House last week, the minister indicated he was reserving judgment on a request from the union involved in the strike referred to asking for leave to prosecute the company for unfair labour practices until such time as mediation had a chance to work. Now that mediation talks have broken off, is the minister prepared to accede to the union's request to prosecute?

HON. JOHN C. MUNRO (MINISTER OF LABOUR): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member states that mediation talks have broken off. I have tried to indicate I hope this is a temporary situation.

Following this, I asked:

Has the minister completed his inquiry into allegations that Air Canada is forcing non-union personnel to act in the capacity of the striking workers? If he has completed those investigations, what are the results?

HON. JOHN C. MUNRO (MINISTER OF LABOUR): I have not completed the investigation, Mr. Speaker.

Each of the answers given by the minister was unsatisfactory so I put the question down for debate. But before pursuing it, I asked substantially the same questions yesterday and received substantially the same answers. I thought then that it was about time that certain facts about this strike and the failure of the Minister of Labour to act were made clear.

First with respect to the minister's reply last Friday and this Monday that he had not yet received a report of the investigations, which he said his department has undertaken, into allegations that Air Canada was using threats to persuade non-union clerical personnel to act in the capacity of striking workers. That problem was first drawn to his attention in the House by a series of questions which I asked of the minister on June 20, almost a month ago. The union had made those allegations to his department before that. Then on July 5 my colleague, the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow), asked the minister the following question and received the following answer:

I should like to ask the minister whether he will have the officials of his department in Winnipeg look into charges that Air Canada employees who are not unionized have been directed to do the work which was done by people on strike and have been threatened with dismissal if they do not take on that work?

HON. JOHN C. MUNRO (MINISTER OF LABOUR): I expect information on this very point today or tomorrow.

"Today or tomorrow." That was on July 5. On July 13 and again on July 16, when I asked the same question of the minister, he still had not received the report. This, let me remind the House, is a strike situation. It is an emergency. It is not an occasion which permits the luxury of leisurely, gentlemanly, intellectual exercises. When action is required, it is required right now. Even today union personnel from whom the allegations came have seen no evidence of an inquiry being carried out. They have not yet been approached in this regard by anyone from the minister's department.

I have made my own inquiries and I am convinced of the validity of the allegations. I have talked to non-union personnel who have been told, when they showed reluctance to engage in strike-breaking activities by replacing striking workers in the finance section, that they were at liberty to refuse but that the fact of their refusal would be noted on their personnel file. It does not take a genius to