

Oral Questions

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): As I indicated, any such enlargement would only occur once we were quite satisfied that the safety requirements were in fact being met. There is therefore no immediate plan for such enlargement. In a case such as the Quebec city airport we are working on improved procedures to allow for even more effective handling of the kind of traffic which has been attracted to that airport after the change in policy which allowed pilots to use the French language when that was the most appropriate language for them on landing, and we will continue to work on the various recommendations, but always with safety very much in mind.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER**SUGGESTED INCREASE IN FUNDS FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM**

Mr. Albert Béchard (Bonaventure-Îles de la Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the very sympathetic President of the Treasury Board.

In answer to a question put to him yesterday by the hon. member for Bellechasse on the possibility of increasing funds for the LIP programs, the President of the Treasury Board alluded to the budget introduced last June by the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton, who was Minister of Finance at the time, and he said this, and I quote:

—if the hon. member wants to know if we are going to add more money to the budget brought down by the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton last June, the answer is no.

If I am not mistaken, as the amount in the budget of the former Minister of Finance was more than \$300 million, does not the President of the Treasury Board, in the circumstances and given the numerous demands from all parts of Canada, including the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, intend to give an additional amount over the \$350 million to meet the needs of the Canadian people?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I must answer with as much sympathy as possible that it is now impossible to change the estimates as regards LIP programs for the present year.

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[English]

POST OFFICE**GOVERNMENT POSITION ON CONCILIATION BOARD REPORT**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Postmaster General. He indicated earlier that negotiations were taking place between the government and the postal workers' union. I would like to ask the minister whether he or the government has indicated either verbally or in writing to the union that the government is prepared to accept the recommendations made by the chairman of the conciliation board.

[Mr. Murta.]

● (1200)

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I have made this point rather forcibly on a number of occasions. Contrary to any propaganda that may have gone out, our representative on the conciliation board, Mr. Boncause accepted the basic premise of the chairman, Judge Moisan that there was a catchup needed comparable to that of the letter carriers and he recommended an identical sum of money and the identical length of term. I accepted that on behalf of treasury and Post Office and reiterated, on half a dozen occasions that until the union came to its senses on the 71 per cent for a 30 hour week it was obvious there was no progress to be made at the bargaining table. Now that their vote is in—I am not sure what its purpose was—we have at least come to the point that we are now negotiating. I hope progress will be made which with endorse again that particular report and settle it according to the guidelines and according to the restraint program, particularly in light of the fact this settlement has been recommended not only by Judge Moisan in this case but by an equally competent authority, Mr. Martin of the letter carriers.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

Sixth report of Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections—Mr. Blaker.

[*Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

Mr. Speaker: Introduction of bills: the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Leggett). Stand.

Mrs. Appolloni, seconded by **Mr. Douglas (Bruce-Grey),** moves for leave to introduce a bill entitled an act respecting National Employment of the Handicapped Week.

Mr. Leggett: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps you missed my nod indicating that I was intending to introduce the bill you referred to standing in my name.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I inadvertently took the movement to indicate that the hon. member for New Westminster was prepared to have the bill stand. The hon. member moves for leave to introduce a bill entitled "An act for the parole of Dr. Henry Morgentaler", which I might say has given the Chair considerable concern in respect of its procedural regularity.

I am sure the hon. member is familiar with the difficulty in that the bill, rather than being an amendment to the general law, appears to be a specific application of law to only one person, or an exemption from the general law for the benefit of one person. It therefore would appear to the Chair to be the subject matter, not of a private member's public bill as it is drawn, but of a private member's private bill, which is different in procedure.