

Inquiries of the Ministry

is quite clear. If there are additional items to which the hon. member refers, I should be glad to have the details and inquire into them.

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PUBLIC SERVICE**SHARING OF DECISIONS AFFECTING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS WITH EMPLOYEES—AMENDMENT OF LEGISLATION**

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, since the government has had a week to digest some of the decisions of the recent Liberal party conference, is the President of the Treasury Board considering the amendment of the Public Service Staff Relations Act to allow decisions affecting classifications and job descriptions, now the sole prerogative of the government, to be shared with its employees?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is quite correct. The government is now reviewing the Public Service Staff Relations Act.

Mr. Rose: Mr. Speaker, this is welcome news, but in view of the fact that many CR positions in the government service are being reclassified and reduced at the present time, does the minister not feel that this procedure makes a farce of the whole collective bargaining process?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question is of a highly argumentative nature and cannot be accepted.

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[Translation]

TRADE**PURCHASE BY JAPAN OF RAW MATERIALS OR FINISHED PRODUCTS**

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Recently, the minister announced that he will head the ministerial and industrial Canadian delegation to Japan. I would like to ask him if, in addition to promoting the sale of crude Canadian ore, he will also attempt to interest the Japanese representatives in buying our finished products, which would be more useful, I think, for the Canadian economy.

[English]

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the commission is to discuss all facets of mining relating to the relationship between the Japanese purchasing agencies, private and public, and in Canada, with respect to both the private and public sector. Certainly we will be considering finished products and raw materials as well as investment policies.

[Mr. Drury.]

POST OFFICE**COMMEMORATIVE STAMP TO HONOUR WILLIAM HAMILTON MERRITT**

Mr. H. Gordon Barrett (Lincoln): Mr. Speaker, I wish at this time to bring to the attention of hon. members that today, November 27, is the 141st anniversary of a date significant in the history of Canada—the passage of the first ship through the Welland Canal which had been built through pioneering—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should ask a question.

Mr. Barrett: The question is, Mr. Speaker, that in recent years the government has recognized outstanding Canadians by the issuance of commemorative postage stamps. I should like to ask the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Post Office if the name of Canada's father of transportation, Mr. William Hamilton Merritt—

An hon. Member: Merritt or Barrett?

Mr. Barrett:—would be considered as deserving of this honour in the future?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of this question. The commemoration of this outstanding Canadian by means of a postage stamp will be given the most sympathetic consideration when a suitable anniversary occurs, which would be on a 50th anniversary or a multiple of that figure.

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since Monday is St. Andrew's Day, will the minister give consideration to emulating the Soviet Union by bringing out a stamp to honour Robert Burns?

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LABOUR RELATIONS**GENERAL MOTORS STRIKE, STE. THÉRÈSE—ACTION TO EXPEDITE SETTLEMENT**

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Labour I should like to address a question to his Parliamentary Secretary. Has the minister offered the services of his department to assist in settling the General Motors strike in Ste. Thérèse, in light of the consequences for the future of a very serious national strike and its effect on language development in Canada?

Mr. Ray Perrault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): The hon. member is aware of course, Mr. Speaker, that this matter is under provincial jurisdiction. At the same time, I am sure he appreciates the deep concern of the minister with industrial unrest wherever it occurs in Canada, and I shall report the hon. member's question to the minister.