

Yesterday in reply to a question from the hon. member for Hamilton concerning the Ste Scholastique airport and in view of the conflict between the federal and provincial jurisdictions in labour matters, the Prime Minister stated that he would try to help Quebec to find a solution, adding that he was pursuing his efforts to come to an amicable agreement.

In view of this answer and the existing conflict in this matter, is the Prime Minister ready to make a statement to clarify the existing situation as soon as possible?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add which may clarify the situation. The positions of all parties are publicly known; everyone knows the part played by the government of Quebec, the unions and the federal government in this area. There is no statement to add to this.

[English]

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour regarding the Ste Scholastique confrontation. Is there to be a meeting between himself and the provincial Ministers of Labour this week and, if so, has the Minister of Manpower been invited to take part in the discussions, particularly with regard to Ste Scholastique airport?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): There is a federal-provincial conference of Ministers of Labour taking place tomorrow and Friday, but the Ste Scholastique question is not on the agenda for the simple reason there is no conflict or difference of opinion between the Department of Labour in the province of Quebec and the Department of Labour in Ottawa as far as that site is concerned.

Mr. Alexander: Since there seems to be some conflict between the federal department and the provincial department in connection with pay scales, I would express the hope that the minister might elaborate on this question by way of a statement on motions. My supplementary is really directed to the Minister of Manpower. I would ask him whether he would agree to make a definite statement at the earliest opportunity with respect to the demands made and positions taken by the province of Quebec in this very touchy area in order that the House and the country can be informed completely as to the positions taken in connection with this matter?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): If there is anything useful to bring before the House, beyond the positions which have been made public and are known, I will do so.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VISIT OF QUEBEC PRIME MINISTER TO PARIS
—HOUSE ARREST OF CANADIAN STUDENTS

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice.

Inquiries of the Ministry

During the Quebec premier's visit to France, several French-Canadian students were placed under house arrest. Has this measure been taken because of instructions given by the Canadian Minister of Justice to the French police and, if so, what were the reasons for it?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Asselin: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Joliette.

[Later:]

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. member for Charlevoix has a supplementary to the question he put a few minutes ago.

Mr. Asselin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to clarify my question for the Minister of Justice since I do not know whether he understood it well. I should like to know whether French-Canadian students were put under private surveillance as a result of instructions given by the RCMP to the French police.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): That question should be put to my colleague the Solicitor General, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Dinsdale: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I am raising this question at the earliest opportunity and in a manner which will not interfere with the right of backbenchers to ask questions. I wanted to raise it as a supplementary. Touching the matter of correctness of information supplied, the Minister of Labour indicated that there would be no loss of employment as a result of his centralization program. In this connection I would like to give him the opportunity to put the record straight if there has been misinformation inadvertently given. Would this apply to an office such as Brandon which is suffering a reduction in staff—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is not a question of privilege. The hon. member is really seeking to ask a supplementary question, possibly a legitimate supplementary question, but I would respectfully suggest to him that perhaps this might be done tomorrow. I appreciate it is a matter of some importance and that the hon. member is anxious to obtain supplementary information, but I do not think it can be sought and given except by unanimous consent of the House. The hon. member for Brandon-Souris will recognize that other hon. members were deprived of the opportunity to ask questions or supplementaries because we ran out of time. Unless there is agreement on the part of all hon. members to pursue the question further, I do not think the hon. member can do so under the guise of a question of privilege.