

by both parties. I hope that the firefighters are going to accept this proposal.

Mr. Oberle: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell the House when the proposal will be put to the B.C. firefighters and whether the proposal recognizes regional disparities and regional differences?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, it is a proposal which is a compromise, and it has been negotiated between the alliance and the Treasury Board. I think it is not proper to reveal the terms before the membership has had an opportunity to consider them.

STRIKE BY FIREFIGHTERS AT VANCOUVER AIRPORT—
POSSIBLE PROPOSAL CONCERNING REGIONAL PAY RATES

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Transport. At the Public Service Alliance negotiations with the Treasury Board regarding the airport firemen's dispute was there a firm offer of regional rates presented to the bargaining committee and if not, why not?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, a proposal was made on the part of the negotiating team and has been submitted to the workers who are going to vote on it. After that, you will know exactly what it is.

Mr. Paproski: A supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are some four minutes before the end of the question period, and perhaps it might be a good idea to have supplementaries for four minutes, and then call orders of the day.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Transport. When did the serious bargaining begin? Was it when Toronto and Montreal firemen went on the sympathy strike or does the west have to be shut down completely before government get off their backsides?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, we are very lucky that we do not have a general strike in Canada if that is the kind of question in the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STRIKE BY FIREFIGHTERS AT VANCOUVER AIRPORT—REASON
FOR ALLEGED DILATORY ACTIONS BY TREASURY BOARD

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the President of the Treasury Board, my question is addressed to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the required two months notice to bargain was given on January 31 this year by the Public Service Alliance, the bargaining agent for the airport firemen and others, and in view of the fact that firefighters did not receive word of the pay offer being made until yesterday, April 14, can the Acting Prime Minister tell the House and the nation why the Treasury Board has been so dilatory in its negotiation procedures

Oral Questions

with economic consequences of such serious implications for a good many Canadians?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman wants to read this morning's papers he will see that the firefighters are not complaining at all about the Treasury Board or the government. They are very satisfied. The problem is elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich for a further supplementary and then the hon. member for Vancouver South.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I wish to respect your call not to get into debate, but the firefighters have been complaining. Since they are designated personnel within the meaning of the Public Service Staff Relations Act and hence perform an essential service to the Canadian public, why has the Treasury Board been so indifferent to the public in that it did not—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question is clearly debate. The hon. member for Vancouver South on a supplementary.

● (1510)

STRIKE BY FIREFIGHTERS AT VANCOUVER AIRPORT—
CONTINGENCY PLANS OF GOVERNMENT IF NO SETTLEMENT

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. In the unhappy event that this strike is not settled tomorrow as a result of offers being put to these gentlemen, has the government made any contingency plans to put substitute firemen in the airport?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I appreciate the importance of the question, but I am sure the hon. member knows it is hypothetical.

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[Translation]

AIRPORTS

MOUNT HOPE—DATE OF DECISION ON EXPANSION

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

Is he now ready to announce the final decision concerning the proposed development by the government of the Hamilton civic airport situated in Mount Hope?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth for enabling me to speak a bit in French.

As my colleague knows, a study on the Hamilton and Windsor airports is now under way at the request of the parties concerned. As soon as the conclusions of that study are known, I will be in a position to tell the member when a final decision will effectively be taken.

Mr. O'Sullivan: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport.