

## Oral Questions

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

## NATIONAL CAPITAL

TABLING OF COPY OF PLANNING CONCEPT ENTITLED  
"TOMORROW'S CAPITAL"

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 41(2) I wish to table copies in both official languages of a planning concept for the national capital region entitled, "Tomorrow's Capital".

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## AIR CANADA

SUGGESTED REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF LABOUR  
DIFFICULTIES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO  
MOVE MOTION

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to propose a motion under Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity, involving our national airline. Members of the Canadian Airlines Employees Association have just walked off their jobs in Winnipeg in protest over labour-management relationships at Air Canada. As this is the second occasion since the 81-day strike last year, the effects of which are still being felt, and since I am reliably informed that serious internal problems exist at upper management levels in Air Canada as well as difficulties with our airline's current capital budget, not yet approved by cabinet, I move:

● (1420)

That the Minister of Transport immediately refer these matters to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications for appropriate consideration and action.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The House has heard the terms of the motion. It being proposed pursuant to Standing Order 43 it cannot be debated without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There not being unanimous consent, the motion cannot be debated at this time.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

## LABOUR CONDITIONS

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL  
UNION—DATE WHEN MINISTER OF LABOUR BECAME AWARE  
OF ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLENCE DURING TERM OF HIS  
PREDECESSOR

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. I

[Mr. Speaker.]

should like to ask him when he first became aware of the letter from the seamen's reform committee to his predecessor, who spoke on a question of privilege this afternoon, allegedly accompanied by massive affidavits alleging violence and requesting an investigation before any more violence occurred, and of the reply by an executive assistant to his predecessor following a meeting with some officers of the department to the effect that the Department of Labour had no authority to investigate the internal affairs of the union. When did the Minister of Labour first become aware of these matters?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot say the precise time because that would be impossible in terms of memory. I do recall some time ago talking to some of my senior officials and asking them when notice came to me of allegations against the SIU. I asked whether any such allegations or complaints had been made to the department, and my officials informed me that, subsequent to my being a minister, such complaints were made—I believe they indicated two or three—and they went on to say they had taken the appropriate action at the time with respect to them.

I have since checked as late as yesterday what action was taken at that time, having been advised that appropriate action had been taken, and I was told that the matter was, firstly, referred to the so-called watchdog committee of the Canadian Labour Congress, and secondly, that they had recommended that the matter be turned over to the police. They felt that that was appropriate advice and conduct on their part at the time these complaints came to their attention. The former minister may wish to amplify, but I believe that is the situation.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister would try to refresh his memory as to whether he received this intimation before the election campaign or after. As a supplementary question I should like to ask the Solicitor General this. In view of the information just given by the Minister of Labour that the Department of Labour turned this information over to the police, presumably through the Department of the Solicitor General, how—

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, if I may, I did not say that when these complaints were made some time ago when I was not Minister of Labour that they were turned over to the police. I said that the officials advised me that they recommended to the people that they turn the matter over to the police themselves.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL  
UNION—POLICY OF GOVERNMENT WHEN COMPLAINTS OF  
UNION VIOLENCE RECEIVED

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** I thank the minister for his correction because I did misunderstand him. Therefore I ask the Acting Prime Minister whether it is the policy of the government, when one of its ministers receives a complaint alleging violence in connection with a union that has previously been investigated for violence and the minister is asked to take action before further violence occurs, simply to state to the complainants that the department in question has no authority to