

*Oral Questions*

people of Canada to come and explain his position on Loto Canada and why he wants to cancel it, but he has refused to talk to them.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**An hon. Member:** Just answer the question.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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[Translation]

**PUBLIC WORKS**

INQUIRY WHETHER DATA PROCESSING CENTRE WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN JONQUIÈRE, QUEBEC

**Mr. Gilles Marceau (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. Can the minister tell the House whether, after his recent appointment to this portfolio, he intends to pursue the excellent job made by his predecessor regarding policy of the decentralization of federal departments, and particularly the construction of a tax data processing centre in Jonquière, which is essential for the economy of the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area especially because of the number of jobs it could create?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, we are certainly going to go ahead with our project to provide the town of Jonquière with a tax data processing centre.

[English]

At the same time, I would like to reiterate our unequivocal commitment to a data centre in Sudbury, Shawinigan and Surrey.

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**POST OFFICE**

ACTION TAKEN AGAINST ILLEGAL STRIKERS

**Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General, the Evel Knievel of the Post Office.

In view of the fact there is already low morale among workers in the Post Office, a fact of which I am sure the Postmaster General is aware, that this low morale is contributing to low productivity in the handling of mail, and in view of the fact that in the Ottawa area alone hundreds of suspensions and hundreds of discriminatory letters of warning have been sent out to CUPW members, will the Postmaster General tell the House if it is his intention that, instead of attacking CUPW, he is now prepared to rescind the suspensions and dismissals to date?

**An hon. Member:** No way.

[Mrs. Campagnolo.]

**Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, again, I have no intention of rescinding any disciplinary action that has been taken by the Post Office. I should like to tell the hon. member that if there is low morale or low productivity in the Post Office, I would invite him to help us boost the morale and give them a better reputation, instead of directing all this attention to people who do not want to work properly, and giving more attention to that co-operative body of workers in the Post Office who want to work and do not want to be prevented by some militant workers.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Postmaster General is now taking an ostrich position, and in view of the fact that yesterday in this House he went even further to provoke Post Office workers by threatening to fire them on an even larger scale, perhaps the Postmaster General will tell the House whether he really believes that such retaliation and harassment will result in bringing labour peace to the Post Office; or is it his intention to provoke a strike to cover up the fact that the Post Office is not operating well but is still being mismanaged, going into the Christmas rush?

**An hon. Member:** Oh, sit down.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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**CANADA LABOUR CODE**

PROTECTION AGAINST UNSAFE WORKING CONDITIONS

**Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggart):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question supplementary to the one posed by the hon. member for Algoma to the Minister of Labour.

We in Saskatchewan are, of course, extremely interested in the whole matter of uranium mining, health and environmental considerations. Would the minister tell the House, in respect of his legal opinion, whether he intends to have his department move in unilaterally or whether he has, in fact, consulted with provincial authorities concerning this whole matter relating to health and environmental considerations?

**Hon. Martin O'Connell (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, we just learned of this decision a few days ago. I am discussing the federal-provincial aspects of it with my colleague, the Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations. It is, indeed, my intention to discuss the matter with the provinces, particularly Saskatchewan and Ontario, for I well know their interest in mining health and safety. Perhaps we can work out a satisfactory arrangement in respect of the legal aspect which appears to be federal, and the inspection and enforcement aspects which traditionally have been provincial.

We do not intend to move unilaterally, but I must say—and I think the House would expect me to say this—that we cannot leave the uranium miners in the invidious position in which they have been because of these legal decisions. We will be moving as quickly as we can.