

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

AIR TRANSPORT

STRIKE BY FIREFIGHTERS AT VANCOUVER AIRPORT—
REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERVENE

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that the strike by firefighters is still continuing at Vancouver airport and that his regional officials have had very little success in solving the dispute, will the minister personally go to Vancouver and talk to the people on strike to see if he can end it?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, two minutes ago I was told of the arrival in Vancouver of two senior officials of the department who flew there to try to settle the conflict as soon as possible.

[English]

Mr. Reynolds: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same minister. Just two minutes ago I was talking with the strikers in British Columbia who informed me that unless either the Minister of Transport or the President of the Treasury Board is willing to go to Vancouver they are not willing to talk to the minister's officials. It is time the minister did his job and went there and talked to these people.

● (1420)

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister a question on the same matter. Since negotiations with the firefighters in British Columbia are six months behind and since this serious strike also affects the lives and safety of every person outside the city of Vancouver, is the minister prepared to do something today by going there and settling this strike or, if not, employing the armed services to provide emergency protection to the air carriers?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, anybody can play politics with anything, but I tell you this situation in Vancouver is very serious. I have here copies of wires from the union asking their men to go back to work. Possibly you represent them better than their union, but I do not believe it.

Mr. Oberle: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary to the minister, who is a renowned labour leader. Why can he not settle a strike involving 100 people in British Columbia and what is he doing about the prospective strike of air traffic controllers? Has he got that under control as well?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had been here a little longer he would know there is something in government called the Department of Labour. A report will be made to the Department of Labour and after that I will be informed and we will see what we can do.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A number of members are seeking supplementaries of the minister. The Chair will

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recognize the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby to complete the first round of questioning and then return to this important matter starting with the hon. member for Vancouver South. As I indicated, I will recognize the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby in an attempt to complete the first round of questioning.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES—CANADIAN DEFICIT IN AUTO
PARTS—MONITORING OF COMPANIES' PURCHASING
PATTERNS

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact there was a deficit of over \$1 billion in trade in automotive parts between Canada and the United States last year as a result of something like a 20 per cent increase in the purchase of parts by Canadian assembly plants in the United States, can the minister inform the House whether or nor the government is monitoring the purchasing patterns of General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, particularly under the auspices of the DISC's which have they set up?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give a specific answer to the question of the DISC's to which the hon. member has referred, but we are certainly monitoring the over-all situation so far as parts imports and parts exports are concerned. More than that, we are trying to develop new markets for Canadian parts manufacturers. There have been missions recently to three major trading areas of the world. On the last trip to Mexico I took representatives of the Canadian automobile parts manufacturers with me.

Mr. Broadbent: In view of the fact that, whatever increased sales we may expect to get in other countries, the fact remains that the United States market is of overriding importance, can the minister inform the House whether or not he has attempted and, if so whether he has made any progress in this regard, to seek assurance from the assembly plant operators in Canada that they will purchase more parts for their assembling of automobiles from Canadian parts producers?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I think the assembly operators are interested in purchasing just as many parts as they can. This is largely conditioned, as the hon. member knows, by the state of the United States market at the present time.

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INDUSTRY

MANUFACTURE BY GENERAL MOTORS OF NEW VEHICLE AT
STE. THÉRÈSE IN PLACE OF VEGA—ASSURANCE THAT
NUMBER EMPLOYED WILL NOT BE REDUCED

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): I have a further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Considering the fact