

## Oral Questions

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

## LABOUR RELATIONS

DISPUTE BETWEEN AIR CANADA AND MACHINISTS—  
GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT AND  
AVOID STRIKE

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Labour I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister with regard to the differences existing between Air Canada and the International Association of Machinists. In view of the fact the commissioner appointed by the government has been unable to recommend solutions for the four critical issues relating to matters other than money, what initiatives is the government taking toward the settlement of the dispute and the avoidance of a tie-up of Air Canada?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to have an opportunity to discuss this dispute with the Minister of Labour before giving an answer.

RAILWAY AND GRAIN HANDLERS DISPUTES—  
GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO SETTLE

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question on a related matter. Does the Acting Prime Minister have any information about the railway and grainhandlers disputes and can he indicate to the House what initiatives, if any, the government is taking with regard to the settlement of these disputes?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I would give the same answer as I gave in the other case.

**Mr. Stanfield:** May I express the hope to the Acting Prime Minister that the government will really consider these disputes as serious matters and seriously involve itself in methods of—

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

CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIAL  
DISPUTES COMMISSION

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister. Is the government giving consideration to setting up an industrial disputes commission, as recommended by the Woods task force report of 1968 and by this party, in order to define areas in the public interest and to provide a mechanism whereby industrial disputes that threaten to tie up the national economy can be averted?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, that general subject is very much before the government. It is one of the reasons the Woods commission was appointed. However, the government has not found it easy to deal with this question in a satisfactory

[Mr. Speaker.]

manner. In response to the Leader of the Opposition, may I add that the government is taking these disputes very seriously indeed. The Minister of Labour reports to the cabinet from time to time on his progress. To date, I think he has a fair measure of success in these matters.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate the Acting Prime Minister assuring the House that the Minister of Labour reports to the cabinet from time to time. However, as these three disputes threaten to tie up the economy of this nation at a very critical time, can the Acting Prime Minister assure the House that the Minister of Labour will give the same kind of information to the House he has given to the cabinet?

**Mr. Sharp:** That is a matter of judgment. I would think the main purpose of all these negotiations is to achieve a satisfactory settlement and if the Minister of Labour finds it necessary to maintain the confidence of the various parties from time to time I would support his judgment.

STRIKE BY AIRLINE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION MEMBERS  
AGAINST AIR CANADA AT WINNIPEG—GOVERNMENT  
ACTION

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Would the Acting Prime Minister discuss with the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Transport the strike by members of the Canadian Airline Employees Association against Air Canada which began this week in Winnipeg, a strike brought about by the refusal of Air Canada to accept the unanimous report of the conciliation board? That strike will have an effect in the very near future on the whole operation of Air Canada.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** My answer to the first part of the question is, yes, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the hon. member for his contribution.

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** In view of the serious nature of the impending strike, would the Acting Prime Minister involve himself with the Minister of Labour in order to ascertain whether he should intervene directly in order to arrive at a peaceful settlement?

**Mr. Sharp:** I think this question illustrates the confidence of members of the opposition in the effective work being done by the Minister of Labour, and I am sure he will intervene if he thinks it will be useful to do so.

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## ENERGY

GASOLINE—POSSIBILITY OF SHORTAGE—REQUEST FOR  
CONTROL OF EXPORTS

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. On May 17, in answer to a question of mine regarding the danger of a possible gasoline shortage in Canada, the minister said that the National Energy Board was following the export of refined products very closely. Has the Energy Board drawn to his attention the fact that exports of gasoline for the months