

Oral Questions

Question Period he would have heard the Minister of Finance indicate that there have been a record number of jobs created in this country in the past year, and that the upcoming year looks just as good, if you take into account the fact that the inflation rate has dropped to an 11 year low. The Hon. Member knows too that the Government has set forth dozens of programs. In the April Budget the Government allocated \$2.4 billion to job creation for infrastructure building, and another \$2.4 billion by way of incentives to the private sector. The Hon. Member should perhaps consult with government officials. There may be many job projects in his particular riding that he has not attended to, and perhaps he could help some of these unemployed people find work if he were a diligent Member.

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[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS**COMMUNICATIONS CONFLICT AT CFTM, MONTREAL**

Mr. Jacques Olivier (Longueuil): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. A number of months ago, there was a labour dispute in the communications industry in Montreal, at CFTM. The Minister looked into the problem and, at the request of both parties, appointed a special mediator. Is the Minister prepared to report to the House whether an agreement is imminent and whether the parties are willing to negotiate at this time?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, I can inform the House that since the appointment of Mr. Raymond Lebœuf as special mediator, the parties have met several times under the guidance of Mr. Lebœuf. I cannot give the House any further information at this time, because negotiations are continuing privately, and all I know is that the Hon. Member may have read the announcement in the paper this morning that 174 technicians at Télé-Métropole were invited this evening to a general meeting where they would probably be asked to vote on a settlement proposal, but I did not get this information from my officials or from Mr. Lebœuf. It is just a bit of news I read this morning in the *Journal de Montréal*. I hope it is true, and I hope that both parties will be able to settle their differences as soon as possible and put an end to a dispute that has been going on for thirteen months.

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[English]

CANADA POST CORPORATION**REVENUE LOST ON MAIL CARRYING INSUFFICIENT POSTAGE**

Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour responsible for Canada Post. Last week the *Toronto Globe and Mail* reported on a study conducted by the Canadian Union of Postal Work-

ers which showed that 98 per cent of mail posted with insufficient postage beat the system. In other words, 98 per cent of mail handled by Canada Post which had insufficient postage was not caught by the Post Office. There have been loud screams from the Government, from some sections of the media, and others, about the millions of dollars that would have been lost if Canada Post had proceeded with what it was prevented from doing by the Canada Labour Relations Board. The Union immediately agreed to that.

● (1450)

In view of the millions of dollars that that would cost Canada Post, what is the Minister prepared to do to draw to the attention of Michael Warren and Canada Post the problems outlined in this report, and ensure that Canada Post has enough manpower, and enough proper procedures in place to ensure that we not only not lose \$20 million but perhaps hundreds of millions of dollars through the failure of Canada Post to enforce the law as it now stands?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, I am convinced that the vast majority of Canadians obey the law and that all citizens of this country who use our postal services frank their mail according to the official rates. There has been an attempt by representatives of one of the postal unions to send incorrectly franked mail, and I think this initiative was not well received, either by the Canada Relations Board or by the population as a whole. I am convinced that this procedure will not be pursued by the representatives of this union, nor will it be emulated by the public. Consequently, there is no real reason for concern. The plan was doomed to failure from the outset, and I think we should not blow up this incident into something more serious than it really is.

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[English]

TRANSPORT**ATHABASCA BASIN WINTER ROAD**

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. It concerns a winter road into the Athabasca Basin region. Since Eldorado Nuclear closed the Beaver Lodge mine at Uranium City, the provincial Government has not seen fit this year to build a winter road into the Athabasca Basin to service the people who are left in Uranium City, as well as the people from Camsell Portage, Black Lake, Fond du Lac, and Stoney Rapids.

I met with the people from that community and representatives of Transport Canada late in the summer. At that time they told us that there was a Treasury Board submission being put in place to enable the federal Government to participate with the provincial Government to build a road into the Athabasca Basin, which would be the only road link for these people. The only other link during the wintertime is air