

With regard to the other part of the question, I can advise the House that the training taken by the substitute employees is the same training that is given to flight attendants.

Concerning the level of safety, Transport Canada is monitoring the situation very closely.

Mr. Benjamin: What about the inspectors?

Mr. Mazankowski: There are more than eight inspectors, Mr. Speaker. There are over 200 as a matter of fact.

Mr. Benjamin: Not for cabin crews.

Mr. Mazankowski: The whole effort of Transport Canada is behind monitoring, inspecting and ensuring a high level of safety as far as Air Canada's operations are concerned.

[Translation]

CONSEQUENCES OF LABOUR DISPUTE

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister was rather lukewarm in his comments to reassure the travelling public, and I think it is his duty or otherwise that of the Minister of Labour to intervene forthwith to help the parties settle a dispute that has gone on long enough—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member will please put his supplementary question!

Mr. Ouellet: Is the Minister waiting for tragedy to strike before he decides to act responsibly?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as long as the Parties are negotiating, I think the Hon. Member would want that negotiating process to take place. Surely he does not want to engage in the collective bargaining process on the floor of the House of Commons. I am surprised at him.

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BANKS AND BANKING

CANADIAN COMMERCIAL BANK COLLAPSE—ROLE OF CHARTERED BANKS

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance or the Minister who has been answering the questions concerning the Canadian Commercial Bank. The question is really quite simple. When did the Inspector of Banks inform her that the major chartered banks were withdrawing their deposits from the Canadian Commercial Bank?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, we have a parliamentary inquiry that is going to go into every matter related to—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

Mr. Broadbent: Answer the question.

Mr. Deans: This is the House of Commons, answer the question.

Mrs. McDougall: —to the CCB and the Northland Bank. That is an action I volunteered.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. McDougall: I am asking members of the Opposition and members of the New Democratic Party to participate fully in a discussion around this inquiry.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

TIMING OF WITHDRAWALS BY CHARTERED BANKS

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, that indeed is a most amazing answer. Surely this is the most important committee in the land.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. de Jong: We deserve answers right now.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. de Jong: Considering that Governor Bouey informed the Finance Committee that he had people in the bank at all times, surely the Minister is in a position to tell us today when the commercial banks were withdrawing their deposits from the CCB. Please inform us today and inform the Canadian public on this important item. When did they start withdrawing the money?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, the Bank of Canada was standing behind the CCB throughout this, as the Hon. Member knows and as I know, and provided liquidity support to the CCB. The Government of Canada was investigating that time with its monitors, and when the problem became serious we sent in more people to look.

Mr. Broadbent: Wonderful.

Mrs. McDougall: We have taken responsible action. Since when is the NDP forgetting about the small depositors of this bank which we are supporting?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!