

*Oral Questions*

confusing two series of negotiations now taking place. Insofar as the postmasters are concerned, I know there is no conciliation report and we hope to reach an agreement without conciliation proceedings.

[Later:]

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Mr. Speaker, may I raise a point of order?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Brandon-Souris on a point of order.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Mr. Speaker, in replying to my earlier question the Postmaster General indicated that I was confused about two conciliation board reports. If he would read *Hansard* for yesterday he would see that the shoe is on the other foot and that he is the one who is confused. May I ask the minister this supplementary. Will he deal more expeditiously with the negotiations that are going on with the Canadian Postmasters Association than he has with the current negotiations on the other conciliation board report?

[Translation]

**Mr. Ouellet:** I hope so, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

CONCILIATION BOARD REPORT—RESULT OF STRIKE  
VOTE BY POSTAL WORKERS—GOVERNMENT POSITION  
ON ACCEPTANCE OF REPORT

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour. Has he been informed of the results of the strike vote by the postal workers and is he now prepared to give the government's reaction to the conciliation board report in that dispute?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I missed the question.

• (1130)

**Mr. McGrath:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for St. John's East should be given an opportunity to repeat his question.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, I understand from the minister's reply that he missed my question. Has the minister been informed of the results of the voting in the postal workers, dispute with the government? Also, is the minister now prepared to tell the House and the country what the government's attitude or reaction is to the conciliation board report in that dispute?

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, I think this is more appropriately a question for the President of the Treasury Board inasmuch as that board deals directly with these matters.

**Mr. McGrath:** Then I will refer the matter to the President of the Treasury Board and I hope he will be more informative than he was yesterday.

[Mr. Ouellet.]

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to be more informative but unfortunately I am ill-informed. The results of the strike vote are not yet known to us and it may not be until tomorrow that we learn anything further.

**Mr. McGrath:** Since the strike vote has now been concluded, surely the minister is prepared to tell the House and the country whether or not the government is prepared to accept the recommendations of the conciliation board?

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday, the results of the referendum or the current vote are not yet known to us but we are endeavouring to find out.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, I realize that the results of the voting are not known but the voting has been concluded, which surely leaves the minister in a position to tell the House whether or not the government accepts or rejects the report of the conciliation board.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is repeating the question he first asked. I appreciate that he did not receive a reply from the minister.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I cannot help it if the minister does not seem to understand the question, which surely is an important one. All I am saying is that the minister should now tell the House whether or not the government is prepared to accept or reject the report of the conciliation board in the postal dispute. That is a very simple question.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is very simple but it is the question that was asked in the first instance. The minister chose not to reply, as is his right. The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

\* \* \*

ENERGY

FUEL OIL PRICE INCREASE—POSSIBLE SHORTAGE OF  
SUPPLIES—INQUIRY AS TO IMPOSITION OF CONTROLS  
ON EXPORT

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources arising out of the shortage of oil supplies in the United States and the tendency for Canadian oil to go south to a higher priced market, resulting in increased prices in Canada and a possible shortage of oil supplies in this country. Does the government intend to impose any system of controls on the export of Canadian oil supplies in the same manner as it has with natural gas?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, this question has been the subject of study by the National Energy Board as well as the subject of conversations with both the government of Alberta and the industry itself. At the present time we have no intention of imposing a form of regulation or export control. We have the assurance of the industry that requirements for refinery feed stocks of existing Canadi-