

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS**C.B.C.—CHOICE OF C.N.T.U. AS BARGAINING AGENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Labour. Since a great number of C.B.C. employees of the French network have chosen the C.N.T.U. as their negotiating agent, even though the latter is not recognized by the C.L.R.B., could the Minister of Labour tell me whether the C.N.T.U., even if not participating officially in the vote secured the majority of votes of C.B.C. employees of the French network, would be recognized by the Department of Labour as the agent of those employees?

Mr. Speaker: I wonder whether the question as put by the hon. member is not hypothetical. Since it is based on conjecture, it seems to me that it is out of order.

[Later:]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Since most members or almost all the members of the province of Quebec have met during the week-end with the representatives of the C.N.T.U. in connection with its existence within federal organizations, would the minister have a statement to make so that we may know whether or not he is ready to recommend that the rights of the C.N.T.U. and the labour unions be respected?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, like the other members from Quebec, I met during the week-end with the union members of the city of Quebec and, on that occasion, I made all the statements which, it seemed to me, I should make.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. In view of the fact that, at his week-end meeting with the C.N.T.U., the Minister of Manpower and Immigration mentioned that he was bound by cabinet solidarity, can he tell the house whether he is making representations to the members of the cabinet, with a view to correcting the present injustice done to the C.N.T.U.?

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the first part of the question, my statement to the effect that I could not be

[Mr. Hellyer.]

bound to any particular group is derived from our political mandate, which is not strictly a labour union mandate. One cannot accept a mandate, Mr. Speaker—that is what I mentioned—and carry it out differently; in other words, one could not get a federal mandate and carry it out in a separatist way.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

Mr. Caouette: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, the minister has not answered the question put by the member for Lapointe. Then, can he tell us if, in view of this government or cabinet solidarity, he cannot recommend that the C.N.T.U. be recognized by the C.L.R.B.?

Mr. Speaker: Order. As the hon. member is starting a debate or making an argument, I do not think his question is in order.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, here is my supplementary question: I would like to ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether he wants to answer my question now that he has answered all kinds of other things?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The minister has answered the question put to him. Perhaps the hon. member is not satisfied, but an answer has been given and I would now like to recognize the hon. member for Halifax.

Mr. Grégoire: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

FLOODS**ITALY—REQUEST FOR GENEROUS AID TO STRICKEN AREA**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether, in light of reports that further flood disasters with accompanying loss of life and damage to property and works of art in Italy are likely to occur, the government will consider making a really generous offer of aid to that country whose people have so many ties with hundreds of thousands or perhaps even millions of Canadians, and whose treasures of art and culture are in a very real sense the heritage of the whole world?