

more qualified to judge what is a fair COLA clause than the chairman of the conciliation board who is a judge of the superior court chosen by the union in question, and I am guided by his judgment.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** That item is only one of a number of other recommendations which were made; the government has not accepted all the others either. The minister well knows that the union might, for example, accept a COLA clause decision from the government—I say “might”; I have no private knowledge the minister does not have—in lieu of certain other considerations which they also have in mind. I should like to repeat my question because I am not sure of his answer. Is the hon. gentleman saying the door is shut on the COLA clause issue?

**Mr. Mackasey:** On the COLA clause issue, yes. I would also say to the hon. gentleman, who understands these matters just as well as I do, that I am at a loss to understand why the union should think that a vote, or even acceptance of the government's offer, would involve a loss of face having regard to the fact they were able to negotiate the only contract in the government which provides full job security and maximum security against the adverse effects of technological change, which, according to the union, was the prime issue. This question has now been negotiated, it is initialed, it is a *fait accompli* and we must now ask ourselves how much the government can concede, even in the non-monetary area, while still maintaining managerial control over a service the people of Canada expect and with regard to which we have an obligation to retain managerial control and not cede it to certain union leaders.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

● (1420)

#### STRIKE OF INSIDE WORKERS—POSSIBILITY OF APPOINTING MEDIATOR

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Prime Minister the following question. Given the importance of this issue, both in terms of the public's right to mail service and the union's right to strike when it is provided by government legislation, and given the fact that the negotiations clearly seem to be at the point of breakdown, with the negotiators on neither side seeming to be prepared to make a move would the Prime Minister give consideration to discussing with both sides the acceptance of a mediator in the circumstances?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Well, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the conciliation report, which is one that both parties have had time to examine and one which, I repeat, seems very reasonable in terms of its recommendations, is the step at which we should stop at this point.

#### Oral Questions

[Translation]

#### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

##### ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO AVOID GENERAL STRIKE IN QUEBEC IN VIEW OF UNION POSITION

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Considering the position taken by the common front of unions especially in Quebec and that individuals such as Labege, Pépin, Chartrand and Charbonneau are asking their members to challenge the government anti-inflation legislation and to launch a general strike throughout the province, can the Prime Minister tell the House whether he is now considering that eventuality and if the government is considering the steps to be taken to spare Canada a dreadful economic disaster?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I share the view of the leader of the Social Credit Party of Canada when he refers to an eventual disaster. I would merely like to indicate that the government still has confidence in the common sense of Quebec citizens. As for the government, we are ready to be very patient to explain the merits of the legislation which the House is now considering and to meet anyone, including labour leaders. If they are worried or have valid objections, we are ready to discuss with them because we are convinced that if the effectiveness of government action against inflation was understood by all, better co-operation would be obtained not only from union members but also from union leaders.

**Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Did the Prime Minister and the union leaders discuss the opportunity to have any further meetings? Did the union leaders ask for an interview with the Prime Minister or a member of the government concerning this famous Bill C-73 in order to discuss its conditions and possible implications?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, several meetings between ministers—including myself—and union leaders have already taken place in various provinces. I must say there has not yet been any meeting with those mentioned by the Social Credit leader. However, I have indicated that I would be available to meet these people if they want to continue the discussion, and I repeat it publicly, if it is possible for me to meet them with government ministers, I would be very happy to do so.

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[English]

#### AIRPORTS

##### MIRABEL AND DORVAL—INSTRUCTIONS OF PRIME MINISTER TO PRINCIPAL SECRETARY ON INTERVENTION IN GRANTING SKY SHOPS LEASE

**Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to address to the right hon. Prime Minister. When in April of 1970 the Prime Minister gave permission to his then principal secretary personally to intervene in a matter involving large sums of money be-