

Oral Questions

department responsible for the atomic energy commission and the commission itself. I might add that we have arranged with various provincial governments, including the province of Ontario, that they will assume their responsibility and co-operate with us in terms of occupational health standards. I think the matter the hon. member refers to has been brought to my attention previously, and I indicated to the United Steel Workers and to other unions the arrangement we have entered into concerning the responsibilities of the provinces.

DATE OF LAST INSPECTION OF URANIUM MINES—
AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When is the last time that safety inspectors of the Department of Labour visited the mines at Elliot Lake, Ontario, and Uranium City, Wollaston Lake and Cluff Lake in Saskatchewan? If such a visit has been completed, are the reports of these investigations available to the public?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I will get that information for the hon. member. I must advise him that I will have to check with the provinces in this connection. I will also inquire as to their diligence in conducting these inspections.

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AGRICULTURE

MEASURES TO CONTROL BLUE TONGUE DISEASE—POSSIBLE
COMPENSATION FOR CATTLE DESTROYED

Mr. Len Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Has the minister been advised of the very serious outbreak of the disease blue tongue among cattle in the south Okanagan valley of British Columbia?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: You are a month behind.

Mr. Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo): It is not a Tory disease. Also, what is the department's policy in dealing with the problem? If it is to dispose of the herds, will there be adequate compensation paid to the owners?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the department's policy is to eradicate the source of the disease, and the herds infected by the disease, as quickly as possible and to pay proper compensation. This disease has been researched. It comes from imported animals from the United States that had the disease in the first place.

[Mr. Munro (Hamilton East).]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN AIR
CANADA AND FINANCE BRANCH EMPLOYEES AT WINNIPEG

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport I address my question to the Minister of Labour. Due to labour problems at the finance branch of Air Canada in Winnipeg, hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue are being lost, and as the CALEA contract expired last August would the minister take immediate steps to have Air Canada return to the negotiating table?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, there is no question that this has been a very difficult dispute. The commissioner has made a report, and as the hon. member knows there have been endeavours made to have the parties get together, without success. As to renewed efforts on the department's part to see whether the dispute can be resolved, yes, we are making those efforts now.

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AIR CANADA

FAILURE OF COMPANY TO PAY BILL AS RESULT OF DISPUTE
WITH FINANCE BRANCH EMPLOYEES—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Air Canada is not able to pay its bills on time due to the problems at the finance branch in Winnipeg. As the gas board in London, England has threatened to cut off the gas supply to the Air Canada flight kitchen at Heathrow Airport because the gas bill has not been paid, as Air Canada also owes a 2,700 pounds electricity bill and Seagrams and other companies have served notice that all further purchases must be on a cash on delivery basis, and as two other companies are in serious financial difficulties due to Air Canada's negligence, would the Prime Minister look into the matter immediately and stop this idiotic nonsense which has existed at the finance branch in Winnipeg for the last three years? Canada's image abroad is being seriously damaged by this bill paying negligence.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the House will understand that I am not familiar with the details of Air Canada's gas bill at Heathrow airport but I will take note of the question. I understand that the Minister of Labour is meeting with Air Canada officials on Monday, and he will, of course, discuss this and many other matters.

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FINANCE

REQUEST FOR ESTIMATE OF FOREIGN BORROWINGS—
POSSIBLE REQUEST THAT MUNICIPALITIES AND PROVINCES
REDUCE FOREIGN BORROWING

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of large Canadian foreign borrowings last year amounting to