

## HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

## UREA FORMALDEHYDE FOAM INSULATION—DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVINCES ON ASSISTANCE TO HOME OWNERS

**Mr. Jack Burghardt (London West):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and it has to do with urea formaldehyde. Would the minister tell us how negotiations with the provinces regarding some form of assistance for home owners affected with urea formaldehyde are going, and will he soon be prepared to issue a statement covering this entire issue?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Madam Speaker, discussions with the provinces are continuing. Unfortunately I am not in a position today to respond one way or another on the type of aid we would like to be able to give to the victims of urea formaldehyde. I hope in the near future I will be in a position to announce the intentions of the Government of Canada in this regard.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Announce them in the House.

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● (1450)

## AIRPORTS

## CALLING OF TENDERS FOR ADVERTISING CONCESSION

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. I tried to get some information on this issue on May 25 when I put a question on the Order Paper, and it was not answered. In light of the Auditor General's report in which a detailed audit examination of Transport Canada's airport concessions was recommended, specifically in relation to the sum in excess of \$5 million which the government lost due to an unauthorized 2½-year extension granted to the duty-free shop concessionaire at Toronto International Airport, will the minister assure the House that tenders will be called immediately for the concession for advertising—repeat, advertising—at Canadian airports which has not been publicly tendered for 15 years?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, this is being done now. We are now developing a regime for that particular activity of our airports. I do not see anything irregular now. On the subject of the duty-free shop, yes, indeed, I am the first one to recognize that the delay was extraordinarily long. But my hon. friend might want to agree to the fact that, here again, the Department of Transport had to develop a regime for the foreign operation of duty-free shops. I agree that it took too much time, but it was not an easy definition to reach.

**Mr. MacKay:** Madam Speaker, may I just say that I thought the minister and the government would have learned something from Sky Shops.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Pepin:** Madam Speaker, we did.

## Oral Questions

## RAILWAYS

## FUTURE OF CROWNEST PASS RATE

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Since both he and the Minister of Agriculture have been making statements about the Crow rate, and since the Crow rate has great impact in the economy of the prairie provinces, and since two of the three prairie provincial governments support its retention, as did three Royal Commissions, which researched the problem very well, will the minister assure the House that the government has no plans to change the Crow rate either now or in the near future?

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

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** I cannot do so, Madam Speaker. But having received a letter today from the leader of the NDP, I can assure him and the NDP that it will not be done over the Christmas recess.

## GRAIN HANDLING SYSTEM

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre):** Madam Speaker, since farm net income is projected to drop 15 per cent in 1982, and since the Crow rate is part of the Confederation bargain—trading tariffs in exchange for this special rate—will the Minister of Transport tell the House whether or not he shares the vision of his department and of the previous minister, the Hon. Otto Lang, to centralize the grain handling system in such a way that it will impact heavily on local communities in the prairies, the kind of program that has been vociferously opposed by the prairie people?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, one of the ways to oppose an idea is to deform it. The NDP has been very good at it when it comes to the Crow rate.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Pepin:** It has never been the view of those of us who believe it might be time to look at the question of modernizing the Crow rate—it has never been the intention of any person that is worth any respect to eliminate the Crow rate. This is a straw man that the NDP has created. No one in his right mind wants to eliminate the Crow rate right off the surface. No one will deny the concept of the "Crow benefit". Those of us who believe that the Crow rate should be modernized are quite willing and eager to accommodate that concept of the Crow benefit. So stop deforming the idea.

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## UNITED NATIONS

## ISRAELI ANNEXATION OF GOLAN HEIGHTS—STATUS OF CANADIAN MEMBERS OF OBSERVER FORCE

**Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of