

that there are no plans for any transfer to Dorval, if a new division of activities between Dorval and Mirabel is put through. In other words, I am told that St-Hubert is not a problem in the present situation, where we are considering the feasibility of transferring certain routes from Dorval to Mirabel.

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[English]

RAILWAYS

CROWNEST PASS RATE—NATURE OF GUARANTEES SOUGHT FROM RAILWAY COMPANIES

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Now that the minister has announced his intention to upgrade the Crow rate, what iron-clad guarantees has he received from the railways that they will maintain service, rail lines and rolling stock adequate to meet the requirements of grain growers?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, in the announcement I made in Winnipeg the other day it was specifically indicated that the guarantees that the railways would have to give in return for a more compensatory rate would be defined by the "Gilson exercise", as I call it.

Second, these guarantees would be part of the statute that would be passed in this House—next fall, I hope—to replace the present statutory rate. In other words, the obligation of the railways to provide guarantees of service would be in the law which would replace the statute we now have.

ROLE OF MINISTER

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Madam Speaker, since the railways have made profits from hauling grain for at least the last 75 or 85 years and have left many rail lines abandoned without adequate maintenance and without adequate rolling stock, I would like to ask the minister whether the Canadian Wheat Board will be using farmers' money to contribute to buying rolling stock, and what clout does the minister have now that he did not have up until now, to force the railways to provide this necessary service?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I have not found too many people in the west who will not accept the proposition that at the moment and in recent years the railways have not been properly compensated. There is agreement on that. People may disagree as to who should pay the difference between what they should receive and what they now receive. The first point is generally accepted.

In the announcement I made on behalf of the government last week, I indicated that the program for branch line rehabilitation would continue at the expense of the Government of Canada as a sort of compensation for what the railways have lost in the past and cannot recover now or in the future.

Oral Questions

With respect to hopper cars, I did make a commitment on behalf of the government that a first purchase of 1,280 hopper cars will be made very, very soon. These are the different ways in which the government is moving in an effort to rebalance the contribution the government, farmers and the railways will make to grain transportation.

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DISASTERS

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE SINKING OF "OCEAN RANGER"

Miss Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the concern of all members of this House, can the minister tell the House when a commission of inquiry will be set up to look into the tragic loss of lives and the sinking of the *Ocean Ranger* off the coast of Newfoundland yesterday morning?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, we are in the process of finalizing the terms of reference for that commission of inquiry, but I am pleased to announce to the House that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland, the hon. Alex Hickman, has agreed to chair that commission. I am sure all members of this House will want to express their appreciation to the Chief Justice for having accepted this very important task.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ABSENCE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. It concerns the government's response to the recommendations in the McDonald commission report which was tabled last August. Since the first revelations of RCMP wrongdoing in 1977, not a single disciplinary action has been taken or prosecution commenced by the federal government, making a mockery of the rule of law in Canada. Will the Solicitor General now confirm that the RCMP commissioner received some time ago the reports of former judges Culliton and Potvin on possible disciplinary action, and will he explain why his colleague, the Attorney General of Canada, has taken no proceedings whatsoever on violations of federal law and why, apparently, the RCMP commissioner has now decided not to take any disciplinary action at this time?

● (1500)

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I accepted the recommendations of the McDonald commission and referred matters to attorneys general, federal and provincial, and to the commissioner, to consider whether, in their