

Oral Questions

that a firm wants to build a free monorail in Calgary which involves a factory and several hundred Canadian jobs. The difficulty is that the approvals from the Department of Transport have been slow. There is now some danger that we will lose that factory and those jobs to Philadelphia. Can the Minister tell us what he is doing to speed up the approvals and keep those jobs in Canada?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I will not deny the validity of the judgment passed on this particular item, but a meeting will be held in Ottawa next week and decisions will be made at that time.

Mr. Hawkes: I am glad to hear that from the Minister.

DELAY IN HOLDING MEETING

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Madam Speaker, may I ask why it has taken six months to have that kind of meeting?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I have not gone personally into the details of it, but apparently the conversations which took place were too long.

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CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

INITIAL PRICE OF GRAIN

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. The other day I asked him whether there would be an announcement about the initial price of grains. Since then the Senator responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board has indicated that farmers will not be receiving a 6 per cent or even a 5 per cent increase but that they will be receiving a dramatic drop of 70 cents to 80 cents per bushel of wheat.

In view of the fact that there are no increases in the price of grain, no assurances of an absence of strikes so that deliveries will continue, and in view of the beating farmers have received as a result of energy costs and interest rate increases, does the Minister want to proceed at this particular time to provide guaranteed revenues to railways and fertilizer companies, even though farmers cannot afford fertilizer themselves? What does he intend to do for farmers who will go bankrupt, and where does he intend to place them, in view of the high unemployment?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, of course I will only reply to the question pertaining to initial payment. The question raised a few days ago by my hon. friend was on that subject. The answer to it is that Cabinet is being seized now of suggestions by the Minister responsible for the Wheat Board.

Mr. Nielsen: It has been seized for three years now.

Mr. Pepin: If the usual speed is observed in this particular instance, we will have a decision in the coming days which will be earlier than in some years and not as early as in others.

• (1450)

RAILWAYS

CROWNEST PASS RATE—REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF CHANGE

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Madam Speaker, in view of the fact that in 1980 federal subsidies for transport totalled \$2.4 billion, of which \$278 million went for grain, \$971 for air; \$335 million for marine, and \$547 for VIA Rail and CN Marine, and since the Prime Minister promised in the 1980 election to doubletrack—

Mr. Broadbent: Doublecross and doubletrack.

Mr. Korchinski:—but he did not mention anything about tempering with the Crow, does the Minister not think that the Government has an obligation on the basis of his promise not to proceed with any development, to await any tampering, pending any mandate the Government might receive in a future election?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I am sure you will not allow me to debate this afternoon which sector of the Canadian economy is most subsidized by the Government. I think the majority of the people will recognize that the grain industry has had its fair share of government support in the past. Be that as it may, that share will be increased substantially when the Bill, about which everybody is talking, is passed by this House in due time. The degree of support of the Government would then be raised to close to \$1 billion a year, which is pretty high by everybody's standards.

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CANADA-UNITED STATES TEST AND EVALUATION PROGRAM

CRUISE MISSILE TESTING

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In his talks with United States Vice-President Bush tomorrow, will he make it as clear to the Vice-President, as he has to this House, that the Government has not agreed to Cruise missile testing, nor is it committed to such testing, and that, if in the future the Government should refuse a request made to it to test the Cruise, such a refusal would in no way breach any of the Government's commitments?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I think from previous answers the Hon. Member can rest assured that I would be repeating myself if I told the Vice-