

officials when it comes to abrogating or overriding environmental law in this country?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows that when a law is passed by this House no minister has a right of veto, but I can assure him the closest co-operation will exist—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Davis: —and that the officers of Environment Canada will be consulted at every step and the provincial officers likewise.

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TRANSPORT

PROVISION OF RAILWAY CARS TO SHIP BRITISH COLUMBIA LUMBER—PRIME MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO TELEGRAM FROM PREMIER BARRETT

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. At the end of last week did he receive a telegram from Premier Barrett of British Columbia to the effect that the railway transportation situation in British Columbia is critical, that there is an inability to obtain sufficient railway cars from either the CNR or the CPR and that there are approximately 6,000 cars of lumber standing on sidings and at sawmills that the industry is unable to move that lumber because of the shortage of boxcars? Can the Prime Minister say what his response was to the telegram and what action the government is taking in respect of this continuing request?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the telegram was acknowledged and I have referred the matter to the Minister of Transport for discussion with him. He also had received a copy of the telegram. We are trying to get an answer for Premier Barrett as soon as possible.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. Inasmuch as he made a commitment in the latter part of October, more than a month ago, to Mr. Nunweiler, MLA for Fort George and to this House that he would take under advisement the possibility of appointing a transport or boxcar co-ordinator to ensure availability of boxcars, and inasmuch as he has not given any response to anybody yet about this matter, can we expect a reply about what he is doing other than simply examining the situation?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we have been doing more than examining the situation. We have asked the railway companies to try to find ways and means so that more boxcars may be made available to the lumber companies there. We are advised that the CPR and CNR are in exactly the same position as the British Columbia Railway headed by Mr. Barrett, which cannot supply more boxcars than the CNR or the CPR.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Trinity.

Oral Questions

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member. I have to interrupt him. The hon. member for Skeena rises on a question of privilege.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, the question of privilege is that the minister has done this on two other occasions. He attempts to duck his responsibility as Minister of Transport for national transportation in this nation by making reference to a provincial government-owned railway. I would like to point out that this province is currently using every means it can to acquire boxcars, while the CNR and the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to interrupt the hon. member. It seems to me this is debate and not privilege.

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ENERGY

NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE OF DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE ON TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Can the minister give the name of the representative of his department on the technical advisory committee on petroleum supply and demand and indicate whether or not the representative has attended all meetings?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, following well established precedent, I do not think it would be appropriate for me to divulge his name. But I should like to tell the hon. member who asked the question that I have satisfied myself that we have a leading, able and very effective official on that committee.

Some hon. Members: Who?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have to try to make as much headway as we can in the last few minutes of the question period. The hon. member for Trinity will be recognized, followed by the hon. member for Champlain.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is to the minister. Will he indicate how fully he has been informed and, if not more fully than indicated by his previous answer, how he manages to keep abreast in monitoring the possible impact of the oil shortage on the manufacturing industries of this country?

Mr. Gillespie: I am very well served by my officials, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hellyer: A final supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has asked a supplementary and I recognized him for that purpose. For the moment the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Champlain.