

the lumber companies to take care of their own interests, perhaps we can convince the railways to do the same.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I bring to the attention of hon. members that we will be running short of time very soon.

Mr. Olausen: Mr. Speaker, I direct my supplementary to the Minister of Transport. What progress has there been in consultation with the government of British Columbia regarding the critical shortage of boxcars in that province, and is any action being contemplated by the federal government?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I think that the government of British Columbia has exactly the same problem that we have. We cannot build boxcars overnight. If we want more boxcars in B.C., this House will have to tell us from which part of Canada we are going to remove boxcars.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River on a supplementary and then the hon. member for Yukon.

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether it is not a fact that the railroads are actually phasing out more boxcars than they are putting into service these days, and that an order for only a thousand boxcars has been given to solve the great problem we have in this country in regard to wheat and lumber movements. When can we expect some action?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I think there are not far from 1,000, perhaps more, boxcars that are now being repaired by Canadian National. I hope CPR will do the same and will not ask to be paid in advance of repairing the boxcars. We can have boxcars if hon. members are ready to accept the fact that we must remove boxcars from the grain movement and send them to British Columbia for lumber movement.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Yukon.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I guess the Minister of Supply and Services must have anticipated I was going to ask him a question because he has left the chamber.

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ENERGY

NATURAL GAS—SUGGESTED PIPELINE FROM SABLE ISLAND TO NOVA SCOTIA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact Premier Gerald Regan, in an interview at Province House, Nova Scotia, expressed himself as being optimistic about getting federal support for a natural gas pipeline from Sable Island, would the minister inform the House whether there is sufficient gas on Sable Island to warrant a pipeline to Nova Scotia, and will any federal support be provided toward its construction?

Oral Questions

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows, there has been some success with the exploration on Sable Island and on the continental shelf close by. I think it is fair to say that at the moment there is no certainty that the gas could be delivered at the kind of price that would make it attractive to Nova Scotia. This, of course, is a matter dependent upon exploration results.

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[Translation]

HOUSING

PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENTS ON URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa East): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to put a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs but, in view of his absence, I shall address it to his parliamentary secretary.

Could the minister advise the House of the progress achieved or the agreements concluded to this date in connection with the program legislated on by Bill C-133 which is intended to encourage and help the municipalities in achieving their urban renewal projects? The minister announced that \$100 million would be available to the provinces in 1973. Could we obtain details on the agreements concluded to this day?

Mr. Ian Watson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State for Urban Affairs met the Ontario ministers in charge of housing and finance today. It seems that at noon the two ministers, Messrs. Basford and Welch, announced that they had concluded a federal-provincial agreement involving expenditures of \$26 million this year, under the neighbourhood improvement program.

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[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS

POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE OF LOANS MADE TO MARITIME EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION TO MEET TERMS OF SETTLEMENT WITH DOCKWORKERS

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Can the minister indicate whether or not he has had any communication from the Maritime Employers Association, whose head office is, of course, in Montreal—

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Excuse me, did the hon. member say Maritime?

Mr. Forrestall: The association of shipping companies which looks after the hiring of stevedores and so on. Has the minister had any communication from that association with respect to the federal authority assuming the very substantial liabilities in terms of dollars and cents incurred by that association 18 months ago now in connection with the last labour difficulties and the settlement that was arrived at?