

*Oral Questions***LABOUR RELATIONS**

POSSIBLE RAILWAY STRIKE—EFFECT ON EDMONTON

Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, if there is one thing that Canadians, especially Edmontonians, do not need it is a strike by railway workers. Edmonton is experiencing high unemployment. A very large financial institution has declared bankruptcy, affecting some 100,000 or more Albertans with a potential loss of their savings. A tornado that went through Edmonton caused loss of life, loss of approximately 1,000 jobs and almost a quarter billion dollars in damages. A railway strike will seriously and adversely affect Edmonton's many businesses and their employees.

• (1415)

Surely there is a better method of dealing with labour disputes than strikes or lock-outs. In the past, all railway strikes have always been settled so why not settle the dispute before a strike? It makes common sense to Edmontonians and to Canadians to settle now.

On behalf of Edmontonians and the people of Canada, I urge Canada's two major railways and the affected unions to arrange a settlement immediately and peacefully.

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ROAD SAFETY

INSTALLATION OF AUTOMOBILE LAP-SHOULDER BELT SYSTEMS

Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, the Canada Safety Council met in Toronto in late June for its 19th annual conference. The following motion was adopted:

That the Canada Safety Council urge Transport Canada to make adjustable lap-shoulder belt systems in rear outboard seating positions available as standard equipment in passenger vehicles by no later than model year 1990.

The Safety Council is also asking the Government to require car makers to produce lap-shoulder kits to install in older cars.

These recommendations demonstrate once again the need for better protection for car passengers and reinforce the Government's mandate to see that all Canadians, be they front-seat or rear-seat passengers, benefit from maximum protection.

The Canadian Safety Council is to be commended for its foresight in this security matter.

PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

NORTHERN ONTARIO—CRITICISM OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, after 27 months of Liberal-NDP rule in the Province of Ontario, we can see firsthand the havoc northern Ontarians have suffered. The communities of Temagami, Latchford, Elk Lake and River Valley have had their fill of the Premier's politics.

Recent decisions by Queen's Park to limit new wood supplies in the southern Timiskaming region are irresponsible to the businesses and the people of the area. They are about to cause great hardship, especially the decision to halt the construction of the Red Squirrel access road extension.

Almost 15,000 direct and indirect jobs are in jeopardy due to the insensitivity to northern Ontarian concerns of the Premier and the Minister of Natural Resources. In fact, next month 180 workers at Temagami's William Milne and Sons sawmill could be on the unemployment lines. This is not acceptable. I call on the Premier to respond to the needs of the southern Timiskaming residents and to listen to the people whose livelihoods he is playing with.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—OFFER OF BRIEFINGS—GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, last week the NDP asked for some secret, private, cosy briefing from the Minister for International Trade on free trade and the Minister has leaped at that opportunity and has now given that offer back to the NDP. However, we understand that that corner of the House has some trouble in making up its mind.

I believe that all Canadians have a right to know what is on the Government's mind. All Canadians have a right to know what is at stake in these free trade negotiations, including brewery workers whose jobs are on the line, farmers who feel threatened by these negotiations, and yes, automobile workers who get a different answer every time the Minister speaks. In light of this, when will the Minister for International Trade release those secret studies that indicate which industries will be harmed by these negotiations?

When will the Minister for International Trade set out in detail what exactly are the priorities of the Government in its negotiations with the United States?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Member points out that I did write to