

Oral Questions

tion with the province, and there is in addition the expectation that the national petroleum corporation when authorized by parliament will apply funds in the same way. If the hon. member is asking for funds above and beyond that and above and beyond the rather substantial funds going to the provincial treasuries because of the \$2.50 increase, the answer is we do not have in contemplation seeking additional funds from the general revenue beyond those I just mentioned.

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TRANSPORT**JURISDICTION OF GOVERNMENT AND CANADIAN TRANSPORT COMMISSION—REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF MINISTER'S STATEMENT**

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Transport. May I welcome the minister back to the House. I hope he has fully recovered from the flu bug which has plagued him in recent times.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: Given the fact that the president of the Canadian Transport Commission today stated that the minister and the cabinet do have final authority over the actions of the Canadian Transport Commission in matters dealing with transportation in Canada, which statement is in direct conflict with that of the minister, may I ask the minister if at the earliest possible date he will make a statement on motions clarifying these conflicting views so that the people of Canada will be able to judge clearly just who is responsible for the mess in transportation in Canada?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in light of the circumstances I think we are probably both right. This means that the CTC has the final decision over many things and we have also. I have never accused the CTC, as such, of being responsible for the troubles we have in the field of transportation. I think Mr. Benson is right and I am right, too.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, in view of the minister's answer in which he indicated he may be right and the commission may be right, and his reference to exceptional circumstances dealt with by the minister, can the minister explain to the House just what those exceptional cases are, upon which the minister and the cabinet have power to overrule the CTC?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would hope the minister would not attempt to do this unless we return to motions.

REASON FOR FAILURE TO MENTION TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS IN THRONE SPEECH

Mr. Tom Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Prime Minister in respect of the mess in transportation. Was any consideration given, either at the instigation of the Minister of Transport or others, to include in the throne speech of a few days ago

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

mention of the matter of the mess in transportation and what the government intended to do about it?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would have thought the member would have had the presence of mind to ask this question during the throne speech debate which lasted eight days.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will be recognized for a supplementary, after which the Chair will recognize the right hon. member for Prince Albert.

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, I ask the Prime Minister how we were to know there was a mess in transportation when the former minister was going around saying everything was great?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should have assumed it would take us several years to clean up the mess left by the hon. member for Trinity.

INQUIRY AS TO DISPOSITION OF STUDY ON MOVEMENT OF GRAIN

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, I might be allowed to ask the Prime Minister, under the circumstances, what disposition was made of the study which was under way at the time I left the department to determine how western grain, for example, could move expeditiously and cheaply to ports so that it would be available for our overseas customers, and what action the government has taken since then based on that report?

● (1520)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there is a large quantity of studies on the matter and they have all been made public. I think there are so many of them that they could hardly be contained in terminal 2 for which the hon. member is responsible.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Trinity for a supplementary, but it seems to me this is a rather unproductive exchange.

Mr. Hellyer: My supplementary is simply this: when the government, with its special kind of genius, has managed to fowl up nearly everything in the country in five years, why could they not have taken some action in the field of transportation?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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ENERGY**OIL—POSITION OF PREMIER OF SASKATCHEWAN ON NEW PRICE FOR CANADIAN CRUDE**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the meeting yesterday of the several heads of governments across the country was a secret one, or whether information concerning what took place will be available? I ask that in view of the fact the hon. member for York South