

*Supply*

look at the viability of high-speed trains through the corridor from Windsor to Quebec and Montreal.

We believe there could be a future for high-speed trains in the country provided there is a willingness for the partners to work toward that resolution, the partners being the provinces, communities, other modes of travel and the private sector investing greatly in infrastructure which may cost somewhere between \$8 billion and \$10 billion.

The member is right that the European communities and Japan have decided to go the route of high-speed trains. We believe this country should look at those opportunities, but we will have to await the report for that to happen.

Let me say another thing about VIA. The member is right that the Conservative government slashed services some three years ago but the ridership has come back. I can only say that it is not a question of whether we will have VIA in the future but what it is we can afford. I will give one example. A person can purchase a ticket from VIA for \$78 to go between Jasper and Prince Rupert. The subsidy for that one passenger for that one trip is \$701 to the Canadian taxpayer.

We believe we can have a viable passenger rail service, but we need to look to the communities, to passengers, to the labour and to VIA to come up with a viable and affordable system.

**Mr. Ray Speaker (Lethbridge):** Mr. Speaker, this is a very historic evening. Twenty years ago the House decided that it would change an estimate, and it changed two estimates. One was with regard to the Department of Labour wherein it cut \$19,000. The other was a \$1,000 cut to the president of the CBC. Those two cuts were accepted by the House at that time.

Based on that I should like to move an amendment before the House based on the same principle. If we can repeat history tonight I think we will have achieved success. I move:

That the motion be amended by deleting the amount \$330,938,000 and substituting \$330,918,000.

**Mr. Joe Fontana (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the proposer of the amendment. We acknowledge that VIA has done its part, but I am not sure how the member came up with this magic \$20,000.

Is he suggesting that we cut service to his riding or any particular riding? Is that the contribution the Reform Party wishes to make to the subsidy? If that is what the Reform Party stands for, less passenger rail service in this country, perhaps the member can explain that.

**Mr. Speaker (Lethbridge):** Mr. Speaker, in response to the hon. member, I think he understands. He has been long enough in this Parliament to understand that is not the kind of rationale, the reason put in place by people who are responsible members of Parliament. That kind of argument is for people who want to argue in the gutter, who want to debate the issue outside the

House in an arena that does not earn the respect of this Parliament.

It is very unfortunate what the hon. member has just done. If it takes a reduction in some expenditure in the constituency of Lethbridge of \$20,000 to symbolize a very important change where we are going to reduce the budget, then the people of Lethbridge would be willing to accept that responsibility.

I know this member will not be making that decision. I know the members of this government, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, would make a rational, reasonable, priority, responsible decision on a matter such as that and it would not be done in a crass manner. That is why I can accept that responsibility on behalf of my constituents.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger):** It being 10 p.m. it is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 81(18), to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the business of supply.

The House will now proceed to the division on Motion No. 1. Call in the members.

(The House divided on Motion No. 1, which was agreed to on the following division:)

*(Division No. 52)*

## YEAS

## Members

Anderson	Arseneault
Assad	Assadourian
Augustine	Baker
Bakopanos	Barnes
Beaumier	Bellemare
Berger	Bertrand
Bethel	Bevilacqua
Blondin—Andrew	Bodnar
Bonin	Boudria
Bélair	Caccia
Calder	Campbell
Cannis	Catterall
Chamberlain	Chan
Clancy	Cohen
Collins	Copps
Cowling	Crawford
Culbert	DeVillers
Dingwall	Discepolo
Dubamel	Dupuy
Easter	Eggleton
English	Finlay
Flis	Fontana
Gagliano	Gagnon (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine)
Galloway	Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier)
Godfrey	Goodale
Graham	Gray (Windsor West)
Grose	Guarnieri
Harb	Harper (Churchill)
Harvard	Hickey
Hopkins	Hubbard
Ianno	Iftody
Irwin	Jackson
Keyes	Kirkby
Knutson	Kraft Sloan
Lastewka	Lavigne (Verdun—Saint-Paul)
LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso)	Lee
Lincoln	Loney
MacDonald	MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys)
Mabeu	Malhi
Maloney	Martin (LaSalle—Émard)