

S.O. 21

the first time this railway has been closed down since the great gold rush of the 1890s.

The Government has for this advertisement chosen a locomotive which cannot haul grain, and has chosen a railway which has already been closed down. I believe that shows the Government across the way is out of touch and should resign.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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PETRO-CANADA RESULTS OF POLL ON GASOLINE PURCHASES

Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil): Madam Speaker, media coverage of a Gallup poll on the weekend stressed that "only 8 per cent" of Canadians go out of their way to buy gasoline from a Petro-Canada station. This type of reporting may be technically accurate but is nonetheless misleading. The "only 8 per cent" who make a special effort are persons who make the positive and more difficult decision not to buy from the most convenient foreign owned outlet.

The figure of only 8 per cent is also negatively distorted because 23 per cent of those polled do not buy gasoline, and amongst those who do buy gasoline are many persons who buy from Petro-Canada without making some special effort. The "only 8 per cent" is, therefore, a significant percentage in light of our general lethargy to inconvenience ourselves.

This should remind us that the interpretation of figures is of considerably greater importance than the numbers themselves.

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RAILWAYS

CROWSNEST PASS RATE—CONDEMNATION OF GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Madam Speaker, I would like to make a statement today concerning the advertising the Government has just done concerning the Crow rate. I believe this advertising is an abuse of the power and position of the Government. I believe it has a number of implications which pose a serious threat in a free and democratic state.

The first threat is that the federal Government has by far the greatest source of funds to draw on for this type of advocacy advertising. Advocacy advertising by Government is nothing less than propaganda. The result is the tyranny of the misinformed opinion, which isolates those affected directly by the programs promoted by Government. The second threat is that Parliament ceases to have a free opportunity to debate the issue as we are not yet in possession of the draft legislation, thus reducing the effectiveness and opportunity of legitimately elected representatives of the people. Because the Government has not finalized its proposals, it can claim to be all things to all those concerned which, in effect, robs Canadians of objective debate about the issue.

Finally, Madam Speaker, people who do not support the Government's ideas on this particular issue are forced to pay for this ad out of their own pockets, and are forced into a position of having to do their own advertising to inform the general public properly. It is unfair, it is arrogant, and it is an embarrassment to all concerned Canadians.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

CHARTER OF RIGHTS

ANNIVERSARY OF PROCLAMATION—AMENDMENT OF LEGISLATION CONTRAVENING PROVISIONS

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. Yesterday marked the first anniversary of the proclamation of the new Constitution Act and the Charter of Rights.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: That proclamation took place after some very considerable expenditure of funds on the part of the Government by way of advocacy advertising. Expectations were heightened that, following the proclamation, the rights and freedoms of Canadian citizens would be substantially enhanced and looked after by the federal Government. Since the time of the proclamation, however, the record has shown quite the contrary. Time has stood still as far as the people of Canada are concerned, as well as this Government, with respect to the promotion of the individual rights and freedoms which are apparently protected under the Charter.

Specifically with respect to legislation and federal laws, would the Prime Minister tell the House when we might expect legislation to be introduced in this House which will in effect change the laws which are clearly in contravention of the provisions of the Charter of Rights—by way of example, writs of assistance which give arbitrary powers of search and seizure contrary to the provisions of the Charter of Rights, and many other pieces of legislation? When is the federal Government going to accept its responsibility and give effect to the Charter of Rights as it affects its own legislation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I would take the judgment of the Hon. Member in the examples such as he gives, that the Charter is contravened. It is a recognized fact, however, that the Charter of Rights as we proposed it and what was imbedded in the new Constitution, does render certain provisions of our existing law unconstitutional. That is why a section of the Constitution, particularly as regards equality rights, was introduced with a delay as to their taking effect. That delay is being used by the federal Government, as the Minister of Justice has reported at least twice in this House, so that we can find ways to amend all these bits of legislation through an omnibus piece of legisla-