

Oral Questions

[English]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

MONCTON SHOPS—REPAIR WORK INQUIRY

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. I think he will know—and his predecessor knows it—that in order to keep the CNR shops at Point St. Charles busy and fully employed, Point St. Charles was to be allowed to tender for contracts to repair railway equipment of other U.S. and Canadian railroads. Will the Minister call upon CNR to allow the shops at Moncton to do exactly the same, to keep employees not taken on by CGE employed at the Moncton shops?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. gentleman knows the answer to that question. A decision was made and announced last June by CN, not by the Government, which since 1978 had been directed by the Government that it must stand on its own feet. As a result of studies it had done—and it had three heavy shops—it had to shut the shops in Moncton if it was to continue to be efficient and productive. At the same time it announced that all repairs of CN heavy equipment would be done at the Transcona shops in Winnipeg and that the Point St. Charles shops would be turned into a contract facility. That is what it is doing.

There is no chance that CN can reverse that decision; the decision is made in connection with Moncton. What we all now have to try to achieve is for other manufacturing and repair facilities to go to Moncton, and it is on that we are working.

COMPANY'S POSITION

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, the Minister still has not explained, nor has CNR, why the same opportunity to tender for repairs of railway equipment from United States railroads given to the shops at Point St. Charles was not given to the shops at Moncton.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as a result of this study, and for reasons of its own internal economy and efficiencies, the decision was made that it would have to close the Moncton shops and that, since 65 per cent of all the business of CN is now done in the West, it would have to concentrate its heavy repair work in the Transcona shops in Winnipeg. If the hon. gentleman is against that, it is inconsistent with what his Party is screeching and screaming about in the last few days in connection with Winnipeg and work which will be done in Montreal by Canadair. Make up your mind which geographical section of the country you are going to support.

COPYRIGHT

USE OF VIDEOTAPED MATERIAL FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications. Staff in community colleges have brought to my attention that copyright and its application often poses serious problems for educators. Will the Minister ensure that the new copyright Bill addresses the issue of in-class use of inexpensive and readily available videotapes and such material?

● (1440)

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, when the parliamentary subcommittee examined copyright revision it made a recommendation that classroom use of copyright material should be exempted from the copyright legislation and so stated in the copyright legislation. In fact, when the Government responded in February to the subcommittee's report, the Government indicated that it accepted the subcommittee's recommendation and indicated that the legislation would so state.

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[Translation]

ENERGY

INQUIRY WHY ULTRAMAR WISHES TO INCREASE PRICE OF GASOLINE

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I may remind him that yesterday, Ultramar announced it was going to increase the price of a litre of gas by two cents. This will, of course, affect the entire market, especially in Quebec.

Could the Minister explain why we are getting this increase from Ultramar at a time when, according to the Vice-President of the Gasoline Retailers Association, the multinationals have yet to pass on all the benefits of the drop in the price of crude to consumers?

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is well acquainted with the fact that price controls *per se* are not within federal jurisdiction. They are within provincial jurisdiction. If the Hon. Member wants price controls, he should talk to his colleagues in Quebec City.

In terms of federal responsibility, we have the responsibility to ensure a fully competitive market. The market in petroleum products, gasoline, is being monitored by the Director of Investigation and Research under the competition bureau. If the Hon. Member has any evidence of collusion or any evidence that any company is trying to influence the market to