

economy and that they are highly supportive of us continuing our measure to provide them with assistance.

* * *

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REQUEST FOR PLACEMENT OF ORDERS WITH COMPANIES IN NOVA SCOTIA

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. He knows that many people in Nova Scotia have been waiting for a very long time for some concrete action by the minister to allocate some badly needed orders for railway rolling stock to Hawker Siddeley and some additional orders for rail to the Sydney Steel Corporation. The Minister indicated in the past that he considers his role to be an advocate among his cabinet colleagues to ensure that disadvantaged regions of the country and their key industries receive work. So far we have seen the antithesis of economic development under the minister. While I can see that the entire country is now an economic basket case, surely some consideration should be given to those areas which used to be noticeably economically disadvantaged before the entire country caught up with them?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, I have been working on this with my colleague, the Minister of Transport. I hope the Minister of Transport, on behalf of the government, will have some announcements in this regard before too long.

At the same time I should point out to my hon. friend that just today the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, on behalf of the government, announced a co-operative \$5.5 million project to use Cape Breton coal, in combination with water as fuel for electricity generation plant boilers, the coal coming from the Cape Breton Development Corporation, a company for which I report to Parliament. There will be a new demonstration plant for this new technology. It is just one example of my efforts not only with respect to industrial development but also with respect to advanced technology in the interests of the Cape Breton and Nova Scotia economy.

SYDNEY STEEL CORPORATION

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Madam Speaker, any news such as this is certainly welcome. I congratulate the minister for it, but he must realize that it is a pitifully small contribution when the Sydney Steel Corporation needs, since he mentioned Cape Breton, additional work which the Minister of Transport could allocate to that very important industry. We cannot have any stability, or improvement for the work force or justify the money spent, if there is not some work for the corporation to do. It is within his power as a cabinet minister to secure that kind of work, and I hope he will get to it.

Business of the House

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, we do not need to allocate or force CN to buy from SYSCO. CN has been buying rail from SYSCO for many years. As a matter of fact, 83 per cent of CN's purchase of rail has been from SYSCO over a period of ten years. However, as the hon. member certainly knows, in the last year or so technical difficulties have arisen. For this reason CN had to look elsewhere in Canada—for example to Algoma—for the purchase of some of its rail.

In this coming year CN will be able to purchase 88,000 tonnes of rail from SYSCO, but SYSCO believes in the present circumstances that this is not enough. SYSCO asked CN to buy by anticipation and to stockpile rail. This is being looked at now. The cost of it would be \$1.4 million, and we are looking around to see who could take care of that extra expenditure. The company would normally take care of it. CN, of course, prefers not to do so. A number of us are now looking to see if we can find a recommendation for this particular circumstance. But saying that CN is not doing its best to purchase rails from SYSCO is obviously not true.

• (1500)

Mr. MacKay: I am disappointed to think that the minister believes that CN cannot purchase additional rails from SYSCO. I would also want to straighten something out on the record. If he is saying that the quality of rails produced by SYSCO—in the Deputy Prime Minister's bailiwick—is not sufficient, it is interesting to note that a recent train derailment in the west, as I understand it, was not caused by a SYSCO rail but rather by an Algoma rail. Perhaps he had better reconsider the allocation of those particular orders.

Madam Speaker: I must point out to the hon. member that that was not a question. He should not seek the floor to comment on answers.

* * *

PETITION

MR. HEAP—TESTING OF CRUISE MISSILES ON CANADIAN SOIL

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the Table the two hundred and thirty-first report of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petition presented by the hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Heap) on Wednesday, April 28, 1982, and finds that the petition meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

* * *

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, may I ask the government House leader to confirm the business of the House for tomorrow and to inform us what he plans for next week?