

ing a new contract for employees of CN hotels and the results of those negotiations will be dependent on the attitude of the government in regard to this matter.

Might I also be permitted to add a final part to my question? May I ask the Parliamentary Secretary whether there are any CN hotels in Canada at the moment that are honouring the minimum wage laws of this parliament?

Mr. Ray Perrault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, in view of the settlement arrived at with the Chateau Laurier hotel in Ottawa the other day, there is hope that the general problem may be resolved in the near future.

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ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

EXTENSION OF NAVIGATION SEASON—UNDISTURBED ICE AROUND POWER INSTALLATIONS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport concerning the importance of the seaway to the economic well-being of the country, and particularly the port of Hamilton. In light of the expressed need for an extension of the seaway season from 8½ to 10 months or more, is the minister taking into consideration the problem that exists with hydro officials who have indicated they require to have undisturbed ice around their turbines? Has the minister anything to report in this regard?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker, nothing specific. We are aware of the problem. It is another example of the inherent difficulty of trying to keep the system open for the longest possible time. This does create problems for other interests. We are doing our best to resolve the problem, but beyond that there is nothing more that I can say.

Mr. Alexander: May I ask one short supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his answer, but can he give the House any indication when the Carr report will be made available, since this report may help to alleviate the situation by providing solutions?

Mr. Jamieson: I have not read the complete Carr report but I do not recall a chapter heading having to do with undisturbed ice. However, I think some of my Christmas reading will include finishing reading the report with a view to publicizing it, or those parts of it which are of public interest, as soon as possible.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

TORONTO-WINNIPEG AND OTTAWA-MONTREAL PASSENGER SERVICE REDUCTIONS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of

Inquiries of the Ministry

Transport. In view of the protests that I am sure he, as well as other hon. members, have received about the CNR's proposal to discontinue their Panorama transcontinental train service from Toronto to Winnipeg, has the minister discussed this downgrading of passenger service with the CNR?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. This, of course, is another of the notifications given by both railways with respect to passenger service. However, as the House and I am sure the hon. member know, this matter is now before the CTC. I am not sure whether this particular matter is the subject of an actual hearing at the moment, but certainly the whole question is. It is my judgment that the normal procedures should be allowed to prevail. In the event that the people do not like the judgment, there is machinery for appeal and it is at that point—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Orlikow: A supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: I bring to the attention of hon. members that the question period has expired at this point. The question is whether we should allow supplementaries to the question that is now before the House.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, in view of the announcement of CNR that it intends to downgrade the service between Ottawa and Montreal, which is certainly well travelled, is the minister discussing with the CNR their whole policy on passenger service, which seems to be moving very quickly in the direction of the policy earlier adopted by the CPR?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, on the matter of specific routes, as the hon. member knows I am bound to a great extent by the National Transportation Act, which provides that in so far as individual services are concerned they must be adequate for the traffic offered. The CN's position, as I understand it, is that their proposed schedule is adequate for that purpose. There are grounds and means through which that kind of assertion can be appealed. However, on the broader question, may I say I have talked with officials of CN and I think it is quite important that there be adequate passenger service within a framework that is consistent with traffic offering. May I assure the hon. member that I shall be watching the situation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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[Translation]

TRANSPORT

ST. JOHN, N.B.—MEASURES TO ASSURE SURVIVAL OF POTATO EXPORT INDUSTRY

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.