

*Local Initiatives Program*

[Translation]

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to learn this morning of the decision taken regarding local initiative programs.

It will be remembered that I rose many a time in the House to urge that as many projects as possible be accepted, and also to ask the President of the Treasury Board and the Prime Minister to grant extra amounts to the minister in charge of the local initiatives program. We were repeatedly told that we should not entertain too much hope in this regard. This morning, I see that we are in May, that all nature is abloom again and that even in this field we have the pleasure of hearing that it has at last been decided to do something.

I should just like to say that this program, in my opinion, has increased the purchasing power of Canadians while achieving—as I hope—in most cases implementation of work Canadians had long hoped for but were unable to carry out for lack of the necessary funds.

I would however urge the hon. minister, if his health is now restored, as I hope, to follow more closely the decisions made and the future selection of programs already submitted but not approved, giving special consideration to projects submitted by highly responsible agencies concerned with bringing about improvement of public services in their community, such as community halls and public works to assist villages and municipalities in effectively controlling pollution.

I remember one specific project, submitted by a slaughtering co-operative, whose sewers flow into a river, thereby contributing to the pollution of the water. This project was especially intended for works likely to stop the direct flow of sewage into the river. The St-Anselme municipal authorities were strongly in favour of this project, if I may be permitted to give you the name of the interested people.

I hope that, following the experience of the recent months and in view of the popular response, the minister will be in a better position to give this program an appropriate direction. I also hope that it will be continued so that these organizations will now be able to provide those long awaited services for the people.

On concluding my remarks, I would like to say that I am in favour of this decision and that I am quite satisfied about it. I shall be more so when the projects are finalized and if they are the answer to the hopes and wishes I have just mentioned. I shall then express my satisfaction. Such is my way of co-operating when good decisions are being taken and when the country is administered and afforded possibilities which are expected by all.

[Mr. Lewis.]

• (1130)

[English]

**TRANSPORT**

PROPOSED CARRIAGE OF KOOTENAY COAL OVER U.S. RAILWAY LINE—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw):** Mr. Speaker, I have a matter of extreme urgency which concerns thousands of railway and other employees in Canada. I therefore move, under Standing Order 43, seconded by the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Harding):

That in the opinion of this House, the government should give immediate consideration to the introduction of necessary amendments to the Railway Act or other acts so that the Canadian Transport Commission can make decisions based on public interest or on any other adequate reason, specifically to prevent the movement of coal from the east Kootenays to the Pacific coast via United States rail routes which will result in major economic loss to Canada, involving the loss of thousands of Canadian jobs.

**Mr. Speaker:** This motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** The motion cannot be put.

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[Translation]

**YOUTH**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—RESIGNATION OF CERTAIN OFFICIALS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43, I seek leave of the House to move a motion concerning a matter which is obviously urgent and of national interest.

This urgent and pressing matter arises from the resignations of more than eight directors of the Opportunities for Youth program, which is so much more serious since they all resigned as one man.

What makes it even more urgent is that they all acted in reaction to one thing, namely, political interference.

In the interest of the public which has a right to know through its elected representatives how are spent—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member is aware, I am sure, of the provisions of the Standing Orders. He cannot present any argument in support of his motion. In fact, following a very brief explanation, he must merely state the motion that he wants put to the House, after which the Chair will determine whether or not there is unanimous consent.

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, I was coming to that.

I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Abitibi (Mr. Laprise):

That the House ask the Secretary of State to report on the reasons which motivated the resignation of those federal