

Inquiries of the Ministry

take to refer to the Prices and Incomes Commission the extravagant increases in fares imposed by Canadian National on the gulf ferries between Newfoundland and Nova Scotia?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): That question has already been asked of my colleague, the Minister of Transport, and has been dealt with in the House.

Mr. McGrath: May I point out with great respect that the question was not put to the minister. I again ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, who is responsible for the Prices and Incomes Commission, if he will refer the extravagant increases by the CNR which average about 80 per cent on the gulf ferries between Newfoundland and Nova Scotia to the Prices and Incomes Commission?

Mr. Basford: I believe that the Prices and Incomes Commission is examining these fare increases but I believe, although I may be wrong, that these questions were also asked of the Minister of Transport who reports to the House for the CNR relative to fare increases and that answers were given at that time.

Mr. McGrath: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member rises on a point of order. We will have to go on to another question after the hon. member has indicated what his point of order is.

Mr. McGrath: My point of order is to set the record straight. The Minister of Transport left on an official trip to Europe the day before the increases were announced by the CNR.

Mr. Duquet: I also rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I answered that question last Wednesday.

An hon. Member: What did you say?

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INDUSTRY

DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES AND AUTOMOBILE COMPANIES TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR CANADA UNDER AUTO PACT

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce concerning the auto pact. Assuming that the minister has read the auto pact since the bizarre answer he gave the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville the other day, can the minister inform the House whether or not the government has in recent months approached the United States government and the automotive companies with a view to improving the conditions for Canadians which currently exist in the auto agreements between Canada and the United States?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): There has been a constant flow of conversations between the—I see by the face of the hon. member

[Mr. McGrath.]

or by the noise made by him that he does not agree with what I am about to say. I wonder why he does not agree.

Mr. Hees: Just give the answer.

Mr. Pepin: I repeat then that there has been a constant—

Mr. McGrath: You are not supposed to lip read.

Mr. Pepin: I was saying very politely that there has been a constant flow of conversation between the governments of Canada and the United States on the subject of the auto pact in the last months, and the industry has been made aware of those conversations by myself.

Mr. Broadbent: I do not doubt that there has been a constant flow of conversation. What I am interested in is whether there have been any results that the minister can report to the House.

Mr. Pepin: When results are reached I will communicate them to the House in a very polite way.

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FINANCE

SOFT LOANS TO THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES—EFFECT OF DELAY IN PASSAGE OF UNITED STATES FOREIGN AID BILL ON CANADIAN PLEDGE

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): I have a polite question for the Prime Minister. In view of the concern, referred to in the *New York Times* this week, of the international development section of the World Bank about soft loan pledges for third world countries, will the Prime Minister reassure us that Canada's pledge of \$50 million is unaffected by the hold-up of the foreign aid bill in the United States? Second, to prevent a supplementary question, would the Prime Minister ask the Minister of Finance if he would be agreeable to making a statement on motions on this whole matter which is of some concern to the countries involved?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I think this is the type of polite question which the Minister of Finance would be able to answer it asked of him. I am not aware of any change in the government's plans as a general proposition, but I must say that the fact that a bill might be held up in Congress does not seem to me to be a sufficient reason for Canada to change its aid plans.

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GRAIN

FORECAST OF TOTAL WHEAT SALES THIS YEAR

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): My question is directed to the minister responsible for the Wheat Board. In view of his announcement this morning of the sale to Russia, which is the first announcement of a wheat sale of any consequence for a considerable period of time, I should like to ask him whether other wheat sales are being contemplated