

this week. My questions, however, have to do with the Ridley Island Terminal. Was the minister in Prince Rupert last week? Does the minister have any better answers now for the exporting of Canadian jobs to Japan? Does the minister have any better answers now for the cover-up of the reasons for the exporting of those Canadian jobs to Japan?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, no, I will not comment on it further.

Yes, I did meet with Mr. Ross of Swan Wooster and I did meet again with Mr. Franche of the National Harbours Board. They are going to produce for me a four-page, a three-page or a two-page letter—

Mr. Epp: What about a no-page letter?

Mr. Pepin:—in which they will reiterate the reason why the decision on the purchase of a stacker-reclaimer was made the way it was.

I emphasize the fact that there is great urgency in the decision-making process with respect to the coal terminal construction at Prince Rupert. And I again emphasize the fact that different departments of government were involved in the decision-making process in that particular instance. And again I emphasize the fact that it was not possible, and I do not believe that it should be for the minister to impose his own judgment in these matters when he is surrounded by experts who can advise him properly on these questions.

BURRARD FLOATING DOCK CONTRACT—CANADIAN CONTENT

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings): Madam Speaker, I hope that the minister will make that letter more available than he has the memos and other documents that we have not yet seen. However, with regard to the same contract, the minister talked last week about 53 per cent Canadian content promised by Mitsubishi of Japan. The minister will be aware that Mitsubishi also received a contract for \$26 million for the Burrard floating dock in 1980. At that time there was a promise made of a \$17 million Canadian offset. Not one cent of that promise has been forthcoming.

What makes the minister think that this contract will be handled any differently than the other one and why would he believe that the Japanese would keep this promise any more than they did the other one? Since the Canadian supplier would provide 96 per cent Canadian content and not 53 per cent, would the minister once again give us those figures that can justify the exporting of Canadian jobs?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I am not in a position to judge on the other case mentioned by the hon. member. One of the reasons that the 53 per cent Canadian content will be carried out here is that I will be watching for sure.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Question

• (1425)

Mr. Pepin: The letter to which I referred will obviously be tabled in the House if my hon. friend asks me to do so in the next couple of days.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF THE HON. JOHNATHAN MOTZFELDT,
PREMIER OF GREENLAND

Madam Speaker: May I draw the attention of the House to the presence in our gallery of Mr. Johnathan Motzfeldt who is the Premier of Greenland and, I understand, also the Speaker, which seems to be a great combination for anyone with normal political ambitions.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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RAILWAYS

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT SAFETY
INSPECTIONS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Madam Speaker, I do not think it will be any surprise to you but I do have some questions for the Minister of Transport. By way of directing questions to the minister, may I remind him, if he needs it, that since the early 1950s representatives of railway workers—

Madam Speaker: Order. We were doing very well. The first questions were extremely short. The hon. member need not remind the minister of too many things. Just ask a question.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Benjamin: Madam Speaker, your remarks are very appropriate and I would be even happier had you directed them to other questioners earlier this day.

Now, since representatives of railway workers and members of this House—I even remember the former member for—

Madam Speaker: Order. The hon. member must ask his question forthwith.

Mr. Benjamin: Madam Speaker, considering the rare occasions that I have this opportunity, I ask only for one more minute of patience on behalf of the Chair.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member need not have a long preamble. He may ask a question, and I must say that some of his time has already expired and, if he is short, he may have his three questions. Otherwise, it will only be two.

Mr. Benjamin: Madam Speaker, you are probably right.