

*Oral Questions*

even more welcome when they come from this side of the House, and I hope that our Liberal members will continue to propose constructive measures for job creation, unlike the endless nitpicking and unrealistic arguing indulged in by those on the opposite side.

**Mr. La Salle:** Madam Speaker, I have the distinct impression that the Prime Minister does not realize that Canada is going to lose another 175,000 jobs by next month, according to a study by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. I do not think the Prime Minister realizes that 40 per cent of the jobs lost will be in Quebec.

In the circumstances, I would ask the Right Hon. Prime Minister whether he is ready to discuss, or at least to send a member of his cabinet to discuss, the program being proposed by Quebec, which has the support of other provincial premiers. It is clear that the present government's policy is a failure, as Yvon Guay said today in the newspaper *La Presse*, and only the Prime Minister still thinks he is the sole repository of the truth in this respect.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, this is another little speech, not a question, by the member opposite, but since he mentioned Quebec, I should take this opportunity of giving another example, this very minute, of a statement by the Ministers of Energy, Mines and Resources and National Defence, who, with the hon. member for Bellechasse, announced a further contribution of \$5 million to a gasification plant program at St-Just-de-Bretenières in the province of Quebec.

Every day, and sometimes several times a day, we have been announcing new projects. The members opposite would rather discuss their concept of the budget and their concept of reality instead of looking at what is being done by the government and encouraging its efforts.

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[English]

**RAILWAYS****ANNOUNCEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF CROWSNEST PASS RATE**

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister.

**Mr. Beatty:** Ed for leader!

**Mr. Broadbent:** A crucial part of the bargain of confederation for our prairie provinces has been the maintenance of the historic Crow rate. The Prime Minister has said in this House that this rate would not be changed unless there were a substantial consensus for so doing. In light of this I would like to ask the Prime Minister how the government can justify the announcement in Winnipeg today that the Crow rate is to be abandoned without at least having formal meetings with the

prairie-provincial governments, at least two of which are on record as opposing changes in the Crow rate.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member is correct in suggesting that there is no unanimity concerning what should be done about the Crow. However, in all parties there is a difference of view between some people and other people. We do not have unanimity, but we have a large consensus which indicates that it is time to cease backing these reactionary ideas put forward by the New Democratic Party and to look to the future and to look to progress.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** These people are willing to engage with the government in the examination of some positive steps, not to get rid of the Crow, but, rather, to improve—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:**—the situation in the west so that the grain movement in the west, as well as the movement of potash and other commodities, will be made possible by a modernization of the rail system and of the whole transportation system in the west.

The hon. member quotes two premiers who do not agree with two other western premiers. If he had been talking a month ago, it would have been three premiers in favour of reopening the Crow. Now it is two. I remind the Leader of the New Democratic Party that last week, at the public session of the first ministers' conference, I asked the western premiers whether they could agree among themselves and whether they were attempting to agree among themselves on what should be done to the Crow. There was no answer.

● (1430)

There is no intention among them to reach an agreement because they are divided on this matter. That is why the federal government, since it is responsible for railways and many aspects of grain transportation, must take the initiative a bit more courageously than the NDP would do, show some leadership and indicate ways in which this whole matter, after some 80 or 90 years, can be looked at again so that transportation in the west can be brought into the twentieth century, rather than once again taking the reactionary view of the NDP and hanging on to the past as though it will be our master for all time.

**INVITATION TO GOVERNMENT TO ATTEND MEETING IN REGINA**

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, in the Prime Minister's answer he clearly revealed why the Liberal Party in this country has only two seats in all of western Canada.