

## Routine Proceedings

[Translation]

The minister then outlined some of the ways we have been trying to deal with this crisis, including referring the work of the subcommittee which had two days of emergency hearings and the May 16 meeting of concerned parties in Winnipeg.

• (1520)

We on this side concurred with the report of the co-chairman of the subcommittee, believing that some good solutions were proposed. In all honesty I do question the impact or benefit of the May 16 meeting in Winnipeg when the subcommittee had just heard some of the same witnesses and when certain stakeholders, including farmers, were not at the meeting.

Once again farmers are left out of the problem solving equation and yet they are the ones who bear the brunt and the cost of a crisis such as this. I would implore the minister to get farmers more directly involved in issues that directly affect them.

I have said before and will say again that farmers can fix almost anything if they can get their hands on it.

The minister noted developments which have helped alleviate the situation. A west coast labour settlement occurred, although it does not seem to be entirely satisfactory and in fact may only be temporary. The railways have also increased their fleets.

One amazing thing that many of my colleagues who sat on the subcommittee were incredulous over is why the turnaround time for rail cars on a trip to the ports is not any faster than it was 80 years ago. Surely there must be room for improvement there.

The minister also stated for us today the lessons that we have hopefully learned from this crisis and announced a list of six steps that he and the Minister of Transport will implement by January 1, 1995. Generally we believe they are good and we believe we are on the right track. We would urge, however, that the entire system be overhauled so that there are commercial and financial incentives on the part of all to improve efficiencies and services. If each stakeholder in the entire system held up their end of the bargain and were rewarded for doing so and penalized for not doing so, the system could move toward more excellence.

Farmers are held responsible for their actions, and so should everyone else in the system.

What is also needed is legislation to prevent labour disputes from holding up product movement while still allowing for a collective bargaining processes. My colleague from Lethbridge and I are presently bringing forward legislation to address this.

We on this side of the track are willing to work with those on the other side of the track to ensure that this crisis does not happen again, to revitalize our world-wide reputation and to help farmers get their grains and their goods to market.

## COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

## ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Hon. Charles Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the third report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development regarding Bill C-24, an Act to amend the Canada Wildlife Act and to make a consequential amendment to another Act.

[English]

## FINANCE

**Mr. Nick Discepola (Vaudreuil):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Finance.

Pursuant to an order of the House dated Tuesday, April 19, 1994, the Standing Committee on Finance studied Bill C-11, an act to amend the Excise Act, the Customs Act and the Tobacco Sales to Young Persons Act, and has agreed to report the bill with amendments.

## PROCEDURE AND HOUSE AFFAIRS

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the 27th report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs regarding technical amendments to the Standing Orders of the House of Commons.

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• (1525)

[Translation]

## AUDITOR GENERAL ACT

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-257, an Act to amend the Auditor General Act and the Parliament of Canada Act (appointment of the Auditor General of Canada).

He said: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for Oxford for seconding my motion.

I am pleased to table today a bill whose purpose is to change the way the Auditor General of Canada is appointed. The Prime Minister now appoints the Auditor General without consulting the House, and I would like the act to contain a provision whereby, in the event of a vacancy, the House of Commons Committee on Public Accounts would consider the proposed candidates and submit to the House of Commons a report recommending the appointment of a competent person. In my opinion, after the House of Commons receives the report from the committee, it should be up to the Board of Internal Economy of the House of Commons to choose the next Auditor General of Canada.