

Oral Questions

This particular application is being considered further by the board. I will do my very best to take another look at it.

Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, the executive of the aboriginal community in Yellowknife are requesting that perhaps it would be an option for them to have the proposal revisited immediately, not to wait, and that perhaps the accessibility of a business loan would be considered by the minister.

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should be reminded that in the last two years alone we have funded over 40 small business projects through the CAEB program in her part of the Northwest Territories, and I think over a dozen in Yellowknife alone. They are very good projects, I am sure she supports them. I would be glad to take a look at this one as well.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Guy H. Arseneault (Restigouche—Chaleur): Mr. Speaker, major environmental disasters are waiting to happen in Canadian waters. As the Minister of Transport well knows, the report of the public review panel on tanker safety recommended last October 24 that specific measures be implemented to prevent catastrophic marine spills.

Why has the government taken no serious action to implement the panel's recommendations? And what suitable immediate measures will it take to prevent these looming disasters?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, this government formed the Brander-Smith committee which examined this whole question. The Brander-Smith report that was tabled with the Ministry of Transport some months ago is a very, very comprehensive and very serious work. We have been examining the different components of it and are on the verge of making some recommendations and decisions as to what needs to be done to take into consideration the contents of the Brander-Smith report.

Mr. Guy H. Arseneault (Restigouche—Chaleur): Mr. Speaker, obviously the government believes that band-aids can stem serious haemorrhaging.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the same minister and concerns the interim report of the royal commission on passenger transportation.

Since the commission has urged the government to review its policy on abandoning railway lines and alienation of rights of way, to prevent the irrevocable loss of these rights of way, what does the Minister intend to do to ensure that passenger transportation has a future in rural Canada?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): That was another excellent initiative by the government and the Prime Minister of Canada. The House will recall that the royal commission of inquiry was established by the Prime Minister himself. The commission's members are extremely competent people who are dedicated to their work. They submitted an interim report some time ago, which contains recommendations on the issues raised by the hon. member opposite.

We are giving these recommendations careful consideration. We are analysing the financial impact and will report on this question very shortly.

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[*English*]

THE ECONOMY

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

Terrence Corcoran, writing in *The Globe and Mail* says that the recession is dead, it was dead on the 23rd of April, possibly the 7th of May. I think it was dead in March. I was wondering in view of the economic performance and indicators and the very much lower interest rates, whether the Minister of Finance had new projections with respect to growth this year, and what his projections were all around concerning whether the recession, in fact, in his view was dead.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, it is rather encourag-