

mate. I will take his submissions as a good input into resolving this matter, possibly much sooner than 1990.

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### GRAIN

#### RAIL SHIPMENTS FROM THUNDER BAY

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport, who also reports to the House for the Canadian Wheat Board. As he knows, last winter over one million tonnes of grain were shipped east by rail from Thunder Bay to central and eastern Canadian ports. So far this year only 160,000 tonnes have moved. Over 900 grain workers are laid off at Thunder Bay because the Canadian Wheat Board and Canadian National cannot reach an agreement on a freight rate east of Thunder Bay. Will the Minister report to the House on that and what action he is taking with Canadian National?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker I appreciate the question from the Hon. Member. I would like to clarify one point. There is no price differential between the two railroads in this case. I agree that for some reason or other the Wheat Board is not assigning allocations to CN. We understand, of course, that CN is heavily involved in the Prairie region, particularly in the northern parts of the Provinces because of a very large movement of grain out of those areas. We are holding discussions to alleviate the shortage of equipment that CNR presently encounters, and at the same time I will be meeting, as the Hon. Member knows, on Tuesday with the Senior Grain Transportation Committee at which time the railways, the Wheat Board, the shippers and producers will be present. It is a matter that I will take up with them at that time.

#### FREIGHT CHARGE INQUIRY

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, Thunder Bay has practically ground to a halt. This is affecting grain movement from Manitoba, eastern Saskatchewan, as well as east of Thunder Bay. I am informed that Canadian Pacific has moved about 160,000 tonnes. That is all that has moved so far. Canadian National is not moving it. I am informed that the argument is about what the freight charge will be east of Thunder Bay. Can the Minister find a solution to that problem and get the grain moving, otherwise the port remains shut down for the rest of the winter?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot add a great deal to what I said earlier, that the comparability of rates between the two shows no difference. However, as the Hon. Member well knows, the Wheat Board does have the authority to allocate the movement by railway. There is the extenuating circumstance that CN is very heavily committed, particularly in the Peace River area and other areas, and most of its equipment is tied up. We have recently held meetings to see if we can gain additional equipment

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through leasing by CN for a short period of time. I understand the Hon. Member's concerns. I share them. I will be raising those matters on Tuesday when I meet with all the concerned parties, which shows the value of having a Senior Grain Transportation Committee, which in turn shows the value of having the Grain Transportation Act.

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### ENERGY

#### NEWFOUNDLAND OFFSHORE RESOURCES

**Hon. Roger Simmons (Burin-St. George's):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. A week or so ago the Hon. Member for St. John's West indicated in a television interview that if the Tory Party came to power it would turn over ownership of offshore resources to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

**Mr. Crosbie:** All offshore provinces.

**Mr. Simmons:** Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition failed to confirm that promise in a meeting with the Premier of Newfoundland. Indeed, he completely contradicted the hon. gentleman from St. John's West, the bionic mouth not attached to any known intelligent life form. In view of this continuing contradiction from the unguided missile from St. John's West, versus the take-no-position of the Leader of the Opposition, I ask the Minister whether he has had any recent representation from the Premier of Newfoundland to get on with the job of offshore negotiation, despite the lack of position, the many positions, from the Tory Party?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I have not received any communication from the Premier of Newfoundland since that Province quit negotiating more than a year ago. I am always available for discussion. I am not surprised that the Hon. Member for St. John's West would say such a thing. He offered a deal whereby he would have for the Province of Newfoundland the same revenue as the Province of Alberta. The offer I made to Newfoundland was for much more revenue than the Government of Alberta is receiving. The Hon. Member misled his people and, in fact, will be depriving the people of Newfoundland of financial resources if his policy were accepted. I understand why the Leader of the Opposition is not accepting the proposition of his colleague, who is still fighting against him.

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### CORPORATE AFFAIRS

#### OIL COMPANIES' MEETINGS ON PRICES AND SUPPLIES

**Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough):** Mr. Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that there is a conspiracy to fix prices between the major oil companies. One of the partners in this conspiracy is Canada's own Petro-Canada. I would ask the