

Oral Questions
TRANSPORT

INTENTION OF RAILWAYS TO ABANDON CERTAIN BRANCH LINES

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Several years ago the railways presented the country with a list of lines that they intended to abandon. The government at that time stepped in and guaranteed that these lines would be operated until January 1, 1975. Has the minister authorized these lines to be abandoned at this time or are the railways proceeding on their own initiative?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker. The only policy at this time is that all these branch lines are frozen. We do not know exactly what is going to happen in the future.

Mr. Korchinski: In view of the fact that some of these lines are operational and rail liners are going through on these lines, why is it that boxcars are left sitting on sidings and carloads of fertilizer, lumber and oil are not brought in by rail but by truck transport?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I think we will have a perfect opportunity on Wednesday next, when I will meet in a national conference the railways, the shippers, all those who are users of railways and the truckers, to get to know exactly what is happening and to ask the railways what we want to ask them. We have invited the chairman of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications and he will surely attend the meeting.

REQUEST THAT CONTROL OF RAILWAY AND AIR TRANSPORT, HARBOURS BOARD AND MARITIME COMMISSION BE RETURNED TO DEPARTMENT

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. As the minister has clearly indicated in recent speeches that much of the difficulty in transportation matters today is caused by lack of control over these matters by the government, is the minister giving consideration to bringing back into his department the Board of Transport Commissioners, the Air Transport Board, the National Harbours Board and the Canadian Maritime Commission, and by so doing once again give the government the control it needs over these important matters, thereby greatly improving transportation of Canadian goods?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman for the question. I think I have already partly answered it by saying that I hope shortly to be in a position to produce a policy paper for the cabinet on the revisions I think should be made in the department. At that time I will be happy to discuss it with members of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize a further supplementary to the previous question. I recognize the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville for a supplementary, then the hon. member for Champlain and the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain.

[Mr. Lang]

GRAIN

POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF BOXCAR CONTROLLER TO FACILITATE MOVEMENT

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is to the Minister of Transport. Some time ago the minister referred to the appointment of a boxcar controller to allocate boxcars. When is he going to act upon his own suggestion and make the appointment?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I mentioned to the House that we would try to monitor the distribution of boxcars in Canada. A man has been hired and will be presented at the meeting on Wednesday.

* * *

[Translation]

NATIONAL REVENUE

REPORT THAT CERTAIN QUEBEC OIL COMPANIES DID NOT PAY FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAST YEAR

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Revenue or the Minister of Finance.

Can he say whether what happened in Quebec—seven oil companies not paying any tax in that province—also happened at the federal level or did any Canadian oil company have no federal tax to pay during the last financial year?

Mr. Speaker: I feel that such a general question could be placed on the order paper. It is so general that I wonder if the minister would be ready to answer. It should be placed on the order paper. If there is some urgency, I will be pleased to grant priority to this question on the adjournment motion.

* * *

● (1450)

[English]

MANPOWER

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—ALLEGED REJECTION OF SOME APPLICATIONS BEFORE ASKING MEMBERS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Is it a fact that a number of applications for Opportunities for Youth grants were actually rejected by the minister's department before he went through the motion a week ago of asking members of parliament for their recommendations on applications received this year?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): No, Mr. Speaker, not to my knowledge, unless there was the odd application that was obviously in the wrong form or something like that. I will look into the matter, but to my knowledge this is not so.