

it might play with respect to sponsorship and participation?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I was about to get up and ask myself a question but it would not have been that one! The term used by the hon. member, "mineral industry", is really too wide for me to understand, but I will consult with him after the question period, clarify the question and answer it Tuesday.

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AGRICULTURE

PASSING ON TO PRODUCERS OF DAIRY COMMISSION PRICE INCREASE AFFECTING SKIM MILK POWDER

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the statement the minister made on motions today about the increase in the price of skim milk powder, has the minister received assurance from the other parties involved that this increase will indeed be passed on to the producers?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I very carefully avoided saying that because it would obviously prejudice the negotiation that has to go on between the provincial marketing agencies and the producers. What we do know is that the value of this manufacturing milk will be increased from 32 cents to 36 cents per hundredweight.

Mr. McKinley: Mr. Speaker, has the minister made any representations to the provincial marketing boards that most of the increase should be passed on to the producers?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, we fully expect that, as the hon. member says, most of it will be passed on, but I should like to avoid becoming involved in the negotiations.

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POST OFFICE

CONSIDERATION OF MAIL RATE INCREASE—REQUEST FOR DELAY

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for the Post Office and arises from his statement that he is contemplating a general increase in postal rates. Since the loss of revenue prompting this move results from the loss of business caused by deteriorating service under the former minister, would the minister, as an alternative solution, delay any increase until his new policies have had time to take effect?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept all of the premise to the question, but I do think that when we are faced with such a large deficit as is the case this year the minister in charge of the Post Office would only be acting responsibly if he were to look at the question of increasing rates.

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TRANSPORT

ACCIDENTS—REQUEST FOR REFERENCE OF SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dorchester-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In light of the indication he gave the other day in response to a question that he would welcome an opportunity to look into the procedure respecting the investigation of transportation accidents in Canada, and in view of support from such groups as the Airline Pilots Association, would the minister consider referring this subject matter to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications for review perhaps some time in the fall?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am not at all certain that that is the appropriate forum. I think this is a matter that requires a good deal of expert—in the precise meaning of the word—advice. I had meetings on the matter last night with a number of authorities in an effort to seek possible alternative ways of proceeding, and I would welcome representations from the pilots association or from anybody else. I have stated that we are not adamant on present procedures but that we would want to be sure that what comes after will be as good or better.

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CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

REQUEST THAT MINISTER INFORM COMPANY OF PENSION INCREASES FOR RETIRED CANADIAN NATIONAL EMPLOYEES

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of the welcome announcement that the minister was able to make this morning concerning increases in Canadian National pensions, and in view of the fact that this House is as anxious about Canadian Pacific pensions as it has been about those of the Canadian National Railways, would the minister make that fact known to the Canadian Pacific Railway in his own persuasive manner?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to make it known, but I am sure the hon. member recognizes there is some slight difference in the relationship.