

questions will be answered. If it is not the parliamentary secretary's intention to act in good faith and to give answers to questions which are put on the order paper, then surely he has the responsibility to parliament and the people of Canada to indicate in a straightforward fashion that his intention is to withhold the information.

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask the hon. member to have the courage to accuse me of bad faith or of withholding information from the House. I wish that he would have the courage to accuse me formally, rather than making innuendoes. I have always told the House that we do our best to provide full and complete information to all members.

I would refer the hon. member to the answer which I gave him on January 30, 1979. This answer still stands. I will not accept this kind of innuendo from an hon. member who complains not at all about questions which cost the people of Canada thousands of dollars to answer. We are still working on those questions to provide him with full and complete answers. He will get the answers as soon as we have all the details.

I ask him to have the courage to make clear accusations, and then we will see what happens.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, the parliamentary secretary has indicated that the reason why he is refusing to answer my questions is that they cost too much. I specifically—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The parliamentary secretary did not say that he was refusing to answer the hon. member's questions. He said that the hon. member was raising complaints about the failure to answer questions which cost a lot of money to answer, but he did not say that he was refusing to answer them.

Mr. Beatty: The parliamentary secretary definitely indicated that it was very costly to answer those questions. I have specifically, on a number of instances in this House, requested the parliamentary secretary to indicate to me any instance where he felt that the question was too costly to provide the information, and I would be prepared to withdraw any question for which he could substantiate such a claim. To date he has not done that. Surely he has the responsibility, if he is going to make that sort of charge in the House, to at least cough up the information and justify the charge which he has made.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would listen I just told him that even if I personally found his questions stupid and even if it does cost a lot of money to the people of Canada, we are working to try to obtain all of the information required to give the hon. member full and complete answers as soon as possible.

An hon. Member: When?

Transportation

Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, I take exception to the excuse which we keep hearing on this matter of the expense to produce answers to order paper questions. I have a first hand example of a reply from the parliamentary secretary who said that an answer to one of my questions would cost \$6,500. I phoned the CPR research section in Montreal, and ten minutes later they phoned me back with the answer. That did not cost \$6,500. I think that there is an abuse in the use of this excuse.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

● (1520)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 58—FAILURE OF MINISTER OF TRANSPORT TO DEAL ADEQUATELY WITH TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville) moved:

That this House condemns the failure of the Minister of Transport to deal adequately with transportation matters in this country and, specifically, his failure:

- (1) to provide an adequate marine transportation policy;
- (2) to maintain acceptable standards of air safety;
- (3) to deal adequately with grain movement, resulting in losses of hundreds of millions of dollars to producers and to the Canadian economy;
- (4) to consider hardships imposed upon communities and producers arising from the implementation of the Prairie Rail Action Committee report;
- (5) to provide consistent leadership in urban transportation; and
- (6) to preside effectively and objectively over the granting of tenders and the administration of car rental concessions at Canada's international airports.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Members will recall that proceedings on this motion will expire in accordance with Standing Order 58(11) at the ordinary hour of adjournment this day.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, the substance of this motion which I have presented today on behalf of my party can probably be summed up in one word, and that word is "failure"—failure of this minister to deal adequately with problems relating to transportation and failure of this government to outline a comprehensive national transportation policy within which these problems could be resolved.

We have taken the opportunity to highlight six specific areas of concern and, in our view, gross deficiency. In singling out these six areas we hope to demonstrate during the course of debate today that this minister and government are laden with incompetence, guilty of indecision, lacking in leadership and wracked with fatigue.

There are six examples, Mr. Speaker, but there could have been more—perhaps 101 more. For example, we could have