

Oral Questions

rail transportation safety is something more than pious hopes on the Minister's part.

With their present budgets, neither those Crown corporations nor the Department can do the work expected by the Minister. They will require the resources needed to do so.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, but the Hon. Member's time has expired.

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● (1415)

[English]

CANADA SHIPPING ACT

AMENDING LEGISLATION—CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF COST RECOVERY CLAUSE

Mr. Darryl L. Gray (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Transport Committee which received representations on Bill C-75, an Act to amend the Canada Shipping Act, I have met along with others my hon. colleague for Quebec-East (Mr. Tremblay) and heard the anxieties concerning the cost recovery involved in Clause 4 of the said Bill.

In the spirit of this Progressive Conservative Government to consult Canadians before making major changes in federal legislation, I would ask the Hon. Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) that he, and the Government, forgo Clause 4 in Bill C-75 and that this user fee, Clause 4, be the subject of further discussion with the players involved.

As Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee on Transport, as Member of Parliament for Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine, I firmly believe that Bill C-75 is important and indeed essential, but Clause 4 requires more consultation.

I would trust that the Minister of Transport would take my recommendation not as being negative to Bill C-75, but rather that Clause 4 be deleted from Bill C-75 until such consultation has been carried out.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

THE ADMINISTRATION

DISMISSAL OF FORMER MINISTER OF STATE (TRANSPORT)—PRIME MINISTER'S ATTITUDE

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, why would the Prime Minister for three days conceal the fact that it was a conflict of interest which had been the

determining factor in the dismissal of the Minister of State for Transport? Why?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): The Leader of the Opposition is mistaken when he makes such a statement.

[English]

CONTENT OF PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER ON CODE OF CONDUCT

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister gave us no facts as to why the Minister resigned and implied that everything was solved by putting it into the hands of the RCMP. Yesterday the Deputy Prime Minister admitted in reply to our colleague from Oshawa that conflict of interest was a factor.

I want to quote from the Prime Minister's own open letter to Members of Parliament on September 9, 1985, about his own code on conflict of interest. These are the Prime Minister's words, Mr. Speaker:

The Government is directly accountable to Parliament and through Parliament to the people of Canada. You will find no quasi-independent agencies in this code that will allow the Government to shirk its responsibility by saying that the problem belongs to someone else.

The problem does not belong to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police when it deals with conflict of interest. The problem belongs to the Prime Minister. Why will he not make a statement in this House and give us and the people of Canada a public inquiry into this whole affair?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, all of the facts of any kind made available to me were immediately brought to the attention of the police and an inquiry requested.

If my right hon. friend is referring to a statement yesterday by the Deputy Prime Minister with regard to any alleged violations of conflicts of interest that might have existed, pending the resolution of the matter ultimately, I thought I resolved that definitively by requesting and obtaining the resignation of the Minister.

With regard to the third point that was made by my right hon. friend, I thought I had responded to that, but I would be happy to answer further if he has any questions.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): What have we got here, Mr. Speaker? We have a Cabinet Minister, now a Cabinet Minister's wife, a chief organizer of the Tory Party, a president of a Tory riding association, a newly minted Senator, some missing money, Cabinet leaks, and a phony blind trust. When will we have enough allegations before this House that ought to be looked at by a public inquiry, and when will the Prime Minister of this country give us a public inquiry?