

That is the kind of thing that the Prime Minister is doing for Atlantic Canada.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We will close Question Period with one question from the member for Miramichi and one question from the member for Don Valley North.

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VIA RAIL

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. I want to ask the minister if he is prepared to guarantee to Canadians today that, having decimated VIA Rail, this government will not reduce further the mandate of passenger rail service, particularly in view of the fact that the NTA is considering rescinding Order R-38,000 which in effect would be the first step in deregulation of rail passenger service.

Will the minister give us the commitment now that there will be no further reductions in rail passenger service?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, my friend knows very well that the initiative taken by the NTA has nothing to do with the Department of Transport. It is their own initiative created by the investigation they had on the prices of VIA Rail last year. They decided to go to the public to ask particular questions on the deregulation of rail.

I believe it would be appropriate to wait to hear what the public will say about those proposals and to see exactly what the NTA will do.

In the meantime, I think the role of the Minister of Transport is to wait because NTA, as my friend knows very well, is an independent body that the Minister of Transport has no authority over.

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POLAND

Ms. Barbara Greene (Don Valley North): Mr. Speaker, I understand that, along with other western governments, Canada has agreed to provide a comprehensive rescheduling for Poland in the Paris Club. Would the minister confirm the agreement to ease Poland's heavy debt burden?

Business of the House

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that today in Paris a debt rescheduling agreement was concluded between the representative of the Government of Poland and the representatives of the Paris Club of official creditors, including Canada.

While, we do not have all the details yet, I understand that the agreement reached will reschedule Polish payment obligations due during 1989-90 and the first quarter of 1991.

Under this agreement, Canada expects to reschedule 100 per cent of the payments of principal and interest due during this period totalling more than \$1.2 billion. This represents approximately 10 per cent of the \$12.2 billion total rescheduled by all Paris Club creditors.

In this way, Canada is making a major contribution to easing Poland's balance of payments in support of its difficult and important economic stabilization program.

Mr. Robichaud: Why don't you do the same for Atlantic Canada, Joe?

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, in light of the co-operation shown in the House last evening, I wonder if the Minister of Justice could indicate for us the business of the House for Monday and Tuesday. I believe that that may have changed.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, in view of the quick progress that we made yesterday and the adoption of the motion of the Prime Minister, I wish to advise the House that on Monday we will continue second reading of Bill C-52. On Tuesday, we will start with resumed debate on second reading of Bill C-26, an Act respecting the Railway Act.

On Tuesday, in the afternoon, as I indicated, the House will break at 4.30 for the Minister of Finance's budget statement.

Wednesday will be day one of the budget debate, Thursday will be day two of the budget debate.

Friday's business we will set out later next week.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Beauséjour