

*Oral Questions***CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**

## DELAY IN PAYMENTS TO LAID-OFF WORKERS

**Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Madam Speaker, the Minister of Transport will know that, as a result of the VIA Rail cutbacks last year, a number of CN employees were laid off. Those CN employees have not yet received their severance pay or any of the benefits that were due to them as of last August. Could the minister tell me when these employees might get their pay?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I could not give an exact date. I did not have time to check since my return from the west but I will do so this afternoon. The last time I inquired, which was three or four days ago, procedures were in motion. A decision had to be made by the pension board and that has not taken place yet. The workers knew about the delays that would normally take place, so there is no substantial problem as far as I am informed.

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**PUBLIC SERVICE**

## PAY INCREASES FOR GENERAL SERVICE WORKERS

**Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Madam Speaker, I have a brief supplementary for the President of the Treasury Board. He will know that the general service workers of the Public Service settled their agreement with the government last December for two years, and yet they have not seen that increase in their regular pay. I am not talking about the back pay. I am talking only about the regular increases for 1981 and 1982. They have seen none of it yet. Could the minister tell us when that will happen?

● (1440)

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board):** Madam Speaker, I am not aware that they have not seen their increases yet, but I will certainly look into the matter.

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**NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM**

## EXTRATERRITORIAL APPLICATION OF PROPOSED UNITED STATES LEGISLATION

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the government's commitment to Canadianization of the Canadian petroleum industry by 1990, and our strong objection in the past to American law applying to Canadian subsidiaries of American companies doing business in Canada, what action is the government taking to respond to press reports that a new American law, which has already been passed in the House of Representatives, would

block the takeover of American oil companies not only in the United States but also of subsidiaries doing business in Canada?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, indeed this bill has passed the House of Representatives. The Government of Canada, through its embassy in Washington, made representations by drawing to the attention of the United States administration that the bill, as drafted, would imply extraterritorial application of United States legislation, a matter to which Canada and other countries have always very strongly objected. We were advised that many people in the administration believe that the bill was rather poorly drafted. We will see whether the bill will make any progress at all in the United States Senate. We are monitoring the situation very carefully, and we have already drawn our objections to the attention of the United States government.

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**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

## TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO JOB CREATION PROGRAMS

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration I will direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It concerns the manpower minister's announcement yesterday that he would take another \$100 million out of the unemployment insurance fund to put into job creation, when in fact job creation should have come directly out of the budget. With over a million Canadians out of work and desperately needing unemployment insurance benefits, how does the minister rationalize this theft of funds from the insurance program when it is government economic policy which caused the loss of jobs in the first place?

[Translation]

**Mr. Rémi Bujold (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I should like to say to the hon. member that the minister's announcement that money would be drawn from the unemployment insurance fund was simply meant as an explanation of the department's internal policy which is to distribute money to offset unemployment throughout the country. Of course, those payments will in no way reduce the funds available to compensate unemployment insurance claimants, nor will they otherwise affect those funds.

[English]

**Mr. Blackburn:** Madam Speaker, I am not quite sure what the hon. member had to say about it, but I will check the "blues".