

that ships which do manage to make it up the river will be able to tie up alongside the wharves and load their goods?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** I will add that to my inquiry, Madam Speaker.

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## HOUSING

### USE OF GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING FUNDS

**Mr. Bill Wright (Calgary North):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. The cost of government advertising next year will increase by 14 per cent, to \$70 million. I ask the minister, would that money not be put to better use in housing?

**Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, for the last three days this House has been debating a bill on housing whereby the government is most anxious to put into effect a budget provision of \$350 million to provide housing. I think the energy of the hon. member opposite would be more fruitfully directed toward expediting that legislation in order to assist the government in providing housing.

### INQUIRY RESPECTING MINISTER'S VIEW

**Mr. Bill Wright (Calgary North):** Madam Speaker, last night I told the minister I thought his bill stinks.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wright:** I ask him again, would it not be more useful to put that \$70 million into housing?

**Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works):** Well, Madam Speaker, that is the depth of the opposition's response and feeling to an attempt by this government to provide 70,000 jobs to people in the construction industry, and 30,000 units of modest housing to assist those people most desperately in need of housing in Canada.

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## CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

### LEAKAGE OF BUTANE FROM TANK CARS

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. On January 27 a tank car carrying butane was removed from train number 386 en route to Hamilton from Sarnia because it had no brakes. It was subsequently discovered to be leaking butane so badly that it took the fire department eight hours to bring it under control and stop the leaks. Subsequent investigation uncovered the fact that 28 similar incidents had occurred within a month. I ask the minister what is wrong with the inspection procedures of the CNR whereby those tank cars could have travelled from

### Oral Questions

Sarnia to Hamilton through all the intervening municipalities? Does he understand that this could well be occurring in every other municipality across the country, and is he simply waiting for a disaster to occur before he takes action?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** No, Madam Speaker, I am not waiting for a disaster.

**An hon. Member:** You are a disaster.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Crow, Crow, Crow.

**Mr. Pepin:** My friend is aware that we have had a very important inquiry into transportation of dangerous goods, the Grange inquiry. He is aware that subsequently the CTC had hearings and they are implementing recommendations with respect to speed, equipment, and inspections. Those recommendations will then become the regulations. I will be providing a full progress report on the Grange inquiry in a few days.

My hon. friend is aware that a couple of years ago this House passed a bill on the transportation of dangerous goods. Regulations have been worked on since then and will be published this summer. A tremendous effort has been made in Canada to cover this area of the transportation of dangerous goods, and progress is being made. The provinces are co-operating. There will be accidents, indeed, but the fact that the hon. member himself indicates that they have been identified and corrections made is a clear indication of progress.

### REQUEST THAT ALL TANK CARS BE INSPECTED

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Madam Speaker, surely the minister understands that there would have been no identification of those leaks had it not been for mechanical problems. The problem is that, while the country waits for the minister to act, there is the distinct possibility that there could be a major catastrophe in any one of a number of municipalities in this country.

Will the minister today instruct the CNR that every single tank car carrying flammable or dangerous liquids should be inspected at its source, and inspected periodically along the line it travels, in order to guarantee public safety?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, that is exactly what I am trying to say. It is not my job; it is the job of the CTC to make sure that these things are done—

**Mr. Clark:** Like holding hearings on VIA Rail.

**Mr. Pepin:**—which is what I have indicated is being done. Inspection is governed by a number of CTC regulations. The new regulations will indicate how the inspections should be carried out, when, and in what manner, either by equipment or by an individual. Therefore this is all covered in the regulations of the CTC.