

[Translation]

Mr. Fontaine: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to provide an answer for the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin). First, the Hon. Member for Regina West, in their usual fashion on Parliament Hill, they take steps in Committees to call witnesses, to have witnesses called in who are supporters of the Socialist spirit. They use those facilities, the standing committees, to help people living in far away constituencies get free transportation to Ottawa at the expense of Canadian taxpayers. They are used to hearing very congenial witnesses, because that is their main activity, Mr. Speaker.

If my colleague for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin) does not recognize the association, since I identified it in my remarks a few moments ago, he will have no problem finding tomorrow morning in the official report of our debates the references he needs to contact that association, and should he need more information, he is welcome to call me and I will provide him with every possible information.

[English]

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I heard the response of my hon. friend. I was wondering if there is any provision in the rules governing Parliament whereby he could be examined for an extreme case of paranoia.

[Translation]

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have heard the few comments made by my colleague from Lévis (Mr. Fontaine) and I note regretfully his lack of respect for those people who travel from all over the country in order to appear before our standing committees. I am sure that if my colleague were to review his comments, he would perhaps have the opportunity to apologize to those Canadians who devote some of their time to contribute to the democratic process. No, Mr. Speaker, those are not—

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. Excuse me for interrupting the Hon. Member, but we are overtime now. The Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate (Mr. Baker) would like to ask a question of the Hon. Member for Lévis (Mr. Fontaine). Will the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) please pose his question?

[Translation]

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I am directing my question to my colleague opposite. He knows that on September 25, 1986, VIA Rail stated in a document that it would stop running its trains between Ottawa and Montreal in 1990. This is due, according to VIA Rail, to the new deregulation. Is he in favour of ending rail service between Ottawa and Montreal yes or no, for the implementation of this Bill would mean just that?

Mr. Fontaine: Mr. Speaker, the question asked by my colleague for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria)

National Transportation Act, 1986

deals with two issues. First, he asks me to explain my comment about witnesses before the Standing Committee. We have excellent witnesses at both the standing and legislative committees of this House. What I said to the Hon. Members was that the socialist party always does everything in its power to call witnesses who sympathize with its own socialist philosophy. This answers the first point, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Baker: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Lévis (Mr. Fontaine) mentioned a piece of railway track in his constituency which he was trying to get rid of, or which his constituents were trying to get rid of. He did not complete his remarks in this area about whether or not they did get rid of this piece of railway track. He mentioned something about buses and cars having to stop at a railway line that was not being used. Did the Hon. Member manage to get rid of this piece of railway track or not?

[Translation]

Mr. Fontaine: Mr. Speaker, it is effectively a railway section between Saint-Anselme in my constituency and Sainte-Claire. This section is only a few miles long, and pressure has been put on me by the elected representatives of these municipalities to remove the track because there are accidents caused by the mismanagement of the previous Government. This has resulted in some accidents. The track is built on a higher level than the road and cars meet on top of the rise. Accidents have often caused fatalities in these circumstances. I do not want to blame the Liberals for this situation, but these are matters which should be covered by the legislation.

I must point out that I have taken steps to have this track removed to help the people and relieve them of these regulatory constraints on our rural areas which the Liberals had forgotten.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The time allotted for questions and comments has terminated. Resuming debate with the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell).

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak to Bill C-18, and in particular the amendment put forward by my honourable and wise colleague. We feel that this is an important amendment. We do not want a hasty Bill to which a great many risks and unanswered questions are related, a Bill going through committee in too great a hurry. We want more time to study this subject. I think there are many people in Canada who share this concern.

We are concerned about the Bill because it will have a dramatic impact on the Canadian economy, both on consumers