

*Oral Questions***TRANSPORTATION**

FUTURE OF CANADIAN NATIONAL'S TRUCKING BUSINESS

Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, CN Chairman Maurice Le Clair's recent statement that CN may be out of the trucking business by the end of the year has caused understandable concern among CN Route employees in Scarborough and other centres. What assurance can the Minister give us that if there is to be a disposition of CN Route, job protection for its employees will have due priority?

Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of State (Transport)): Mr. Speaker, if a situation like that were to occur, I assure the Hon. Member that we would ask CN to give all due consideration and to do everything possible to minimize the impact on employees.

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INDUSTRYMODERNIZATION OF SYDNEY STEEL CORPORATION—
POLLUTION ISSUE

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Sydney Steel workers must keep the coke ovens open because they need those 50 jobs to feed their families, even though a recent Health and Welfare study indicated that those living downwind of the coke ovens die more frequently from cancer, heart problems and lung problems than others. Will the Deputy Prime Minister move now toward making funds available for the second phase of the modernization of Sydney Steel Corporation in order to correct some of these pollution problems? To do otherwise would be to ask people to choose between jobs and their health.

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, because there is a distinct environmental dimension to the question the Hon. Member posed, if I may I will reply to that question. We are very well aware of the environmental hazards to the people of Cape Breton, and even beyond, as a result of the facility in question. I have been in touch with the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion about the plans for the further modernization of the plant. We are taking fully into account the environmental dimension of the issue.

EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, the matter is more serious than that. The people are afraid that the Government will use this health study to make a case for closing down the iron-making facilities in Sydney. When is the Government going to follow the words of the Prime Minister by doing everything humanly possible to bring durable jobs to Cape Breton?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, it is not a question of an irreconcilable conflict

between jobs on the one hand and health on the other. The two can be reconciled, and that is exactly what the Government is doing in Cape Breton and across the country.

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● (1500)

CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions, with the exception of one, presented by Hon. Members on Tuesday, November 5, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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PRIVILEGEANNIVERSARY OF SIX MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF CLASS OF
'65

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Mr. Speaker, I wish to beg the indulgence of the House with respect to a question of privilege. Since many Members do not know, and most of those who sit in the Press Gallery are oblivious, which is understandable, let me say that, come Friday, November 8, six Members of this institution, three from one side and three from the other, who came in with Pierre Elliot Trudeau, Mr. Pelletier, Mr. Marchand and others who have gone by the way, to illustrate the political terminality of this system, will be celebrating—or expressing condolences for—their twentieth anniversary in this House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, because in the ordinary democratic way most of us will be roasted in our respective constituencies on either Thursday, Friday or Saturday, I was trying to catch your eye today. These Members, illustrious, constructive and good Members all, are the Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall), the Hon. Member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Scott), the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East (Mr. Allmand), the Hon. Member for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke (Mr. Hopkins) and the Hon. Member for Hull-Aylmer (Mr. Isabelle) who came in with Pierre Elliot Trudeau—some of us have remained.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I conclude on this note. Because these six Members are semi-superannuates—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nowlan: I said "superannuates". That is why I wished to beg the indulgence of the House to ask a question of the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret), which was not a set-up because he will not like it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!