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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mr. René Soetens (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, this week there is a positive awareness campaign concerning violence against women, yet at the same time CBC News-world carries live coverage of a rape trial in Florida.

My question is for the Minister of Communications. In light of the fact that we have an excellent constitution committee meeting going on right now, today in Ottawa, would he instruct the CBC to carry that program rather than the rape trial in Florida?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I am sure there are times when all of us in the House of Commons would like to write the scripts for CBC or to suggest what it might cover and what it might not cover. The government complies with the principle of an arm's length relationship between the corporation and the government.

I know members of the CBC watch with Question Period fascination each day and will be aware of the hon. member's concerns.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Transport.

Yesterday in the House, in response to a question I put regarding a CN plan to reroute traffic through the U.S., the minister said:

CN has already advised the port officials at Thunder Bay that it has no plans to do this so there is no need for me to order it.

Today we find out that CN has a new subsidiary headquartered in Detroit, Michigan called CN North America with full intentions of maximizing the use of the three railways it owns in the United States.

Has the minister used the authority she has under section 89(1) of the Financial Administration Act to order CN not to use this set-up to move Canadian goods

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from one part of Canada to another part of Canada via the United States? Has she done that?

Hon. Shirley Martin (Minister of State (Transport)): Mr. Speaker, the question raised yesterday was about the shipping of grain through the U.S. rather than through Canada. That was what the port manager had been advised that CN was not going to do.

As far as the new company that CN has formed, CN is a corporation that has a mandate to provide service to shippers in Canada, that is to enable them to ship goods into the U.S. as we have a much larger market there than we ever had before under the free trade agreement.

That is what they are going to be doing with shipping by Canadians into the U.S.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

I want to remind the minister that my question yesterday dealt with grain, potash and other commodities. We see today in the Thunder Bay *Times News* the minister is quoted as saying: "CN has to look to the future and plan to be a viable rail link in this country. If some of that happens to go through the U.S. that might be one of the decisions that they make".

I want to go back to the minister. Will she use her powers to make sure that CN does not divert any traffic or any repair work into or through the United States? Will she use her power to protect Canadian jobs, Canadian communities and the seaway?

Hon. Shirley Martin (Minister of State (Transport)): Mr. Speaker, if we are going to serve the market in the U.S. we are going to have to ship into the U.S. I prefer that done by a Canadian carrier rather than an American carrier.

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TRADE

Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the acting minister of trade.

My question arises out of a panel discussion this morning on the consequences of North American free trade between representatives of the three countries that are involved.

Will the minister assure this House that Canadian jobs will not be lost or put into jeopardy under the agreement