

*Oral Questions*

That is not consistent with priority. Why is he putting the interest of shippers ahead of the safety of people in areas like Mississauga?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is simply reiterating the fact that the bill proposed by the former administration was a weak bill. We have undertaken to make amendments and to improve the bill, and it will be much better than the last edition; I can assure the hon. member of that. It will be a much better bill and it will be respected and honoured by all components of the industry, and by governments and municipalities.

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

FUNDS TO DEVELOP RAILWAY CARS THAT ARE  
ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE

**Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Transport. Considering the fact that everybody on every side of the House believes that prevention is the best answer, would the minister be prepared to direct his department to provide the necessary funds to design, develop and produce railway cars which will be environmentally safe; in other words, a container that would be more effective in preventing damage to the environment?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, that is a very good question. I want to assure the hon. member that such steps are taking place. As a matter of fact, some 10,000 cars are now being retrofitted to comply with the necessary safety precautions outlined by the hon. member.

**Mr. Caccia:** Also, in view of the fact that dangerous material is being shipped across the U.S. border, would the Minister of Transport consider initiating an agreement detailing preventive measures and improved standards of transportation techniques with his counterpart in the United States?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** It is through that collaboration that these steps have been taken. They have been undertaken in consultation with the United States and we have the same rules and standards pertaining to the improvement of such railway cars.

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● (1430)

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MISSISSAUGA DISASTER—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES TO  
PREVENT SIMILAR ACCIDENTS

**Ms. Ursula Appolloni (York South-Weston):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the minister consulted with his provincial counterpart regarding the situation in Mississauga and, if so, what steps are being taken to protect the people of Mississauga and

[Mr. Gray.]

of neighbouring communities from the dangers of chlorine vapours?

**Hon. David Crombie (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, indeed the ministry has been involved in discussions with municipalities and the hospital administrators. I should like to take the opportunity to advise the member that the evacuation of the two hospitals, in particular in Mississauga, was carried out extremely well—with the aid of the Red Cross and the Ontario provincial police. There were absolutely no difficulties with respect to either elderly patients or those otherwise disabled.

Also, in relation to the expansion or possible expansion of any activity of the chlorine gas, of course we are monitoring, along with the Department of the Environment, the provincial municipalities, health and environment.

**Mrs. Appolloni:** Mr. Speaker, I was asking the minister for some specifics as to what plans are being made to protect the people from possible chlorine vapours. I gather there is already a leak in the tank, so therefore the possibility is not too remote.

**Mr. Crombie:** Mr. Speaker, certainly I would not want to give any comfort to the suggestion of a rumour that there is a leak, because I have no such knowledge of that. I think that anyone who wants to suggest that ought to be very sure of the facts.

The fact of the matter is that, indeed, all of the resources of the Department of National Health and Welfare, as well as the ministry of health and the ministry of the environment for the province of Ontario, are at the disposal of the municipality of Mississauga and the emergency forces engaged in the activity. Every force that it is possible to offer, and every aid that it is possible to offer, is currently at their disposal.

CONSTRUCTION OF AIR-SEA EMERGENCY HOSPITAL  
FACILITIES—UNIVERSALITY OF MEDICARE

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare as well. It arises from a concern expressed to me last Friday by the mayor of Marystown, Newfoundland.

Considering that the government has not indicated that it will implement the previous government's commitment to build a badly needed air-sea emergency hospital facility at Marystown, will the minister now make such a commitment? Also, will he urge his provincial counterpart to live up to the provincial government's five-year old promise to build a hospital on the Burin Peninsula which at present has only 80 cottage-type hospital beds spread throughout the region where more than 30,000 people live?

**Hon. David Crombie (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to advise the hon. member that I would be pleased to take the representation. I will be in touch with my provincial counterpart and be able to report back to him.