

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, those discussions have already taken place.

NOISE PROBLEM CREATED BY RAILWAY HUMPYARD IN EDMONTON—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ALLEVIATE

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary as it has to do with the railroads. In view of the fact that the railroads are now running and that the triple shifting and shunting of boxcars has brought back the problem of squealing and squeaking in the Calder humpyard, which is now harming the health of the worthy citizens of Edmonton Centre, what does the minister intend to do about this harmful noise problem?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: May we have order, please. Perhaps the minister might reply briefly and then we will try to get on.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): We are going to buy some oil, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: I was hoping the hon. member would not raise a point of order.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact I have not received an answer to the two letters I have written to the minister and as I have also pursued this matter in the House on two occasions, would the minister please tell me what I have to do to get a concrete answer from him?

An hon. Member: Buy some grease.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is making more noise than any train I know of. I honestly thought that the way he put his question was to get a good laugh from the House, and he got it.

Mr. Paproski: A point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member rises on a question of privilege. I will recognize him and then call orders of the day. Obviously, we will not get much further this afternoon.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, I hate to feel that this minister believes that every time I get up to ask a question on something it is an occasion for him to amuse himself. I am very sincere because this is a very serious problem in my constituency. Through you, Mr. Speaker, I should like to know what the minister intends to do before somebody ends up in the nuthouse in that area. I want to tell him that if somebody does, it may well be he who will end up in the nut house.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) rises on a point of order.

Oral Questions

HOUSE OF COMMONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO RIGHT HON. MEMBER FOR PRINCE ALBERT ON SEVENTY-EIGHTH BIRTHDAY

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment to raise a question of privilege which is in a vein slightly different from those that have been raised in the last little while.

Last evening the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Guay), the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Prud'homme) and I had the privilege of attending an important event in Winnipeg, the focus of which soon became the fact that it was a significant day in the life of one of the esteemed members of this House of Commons. That member responded with his usual vigour and in the style that we in this House always enjoy. I am sure all of us would have enjoyed being there and even though today is the day after the event, I ask the House to give a round of applause for the 78th birthday of the distinguished and right hon. member for Saint Albert.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not have to indicate the approval of this side of the House which has been evidenced by the applause which has just been heard but I would enjoin the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Knowles) not to correct the *Hansard* when he reads it and sees that he has beatified the right hon. member.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I think the applause all over the House has indicated the way in which the compliments offered by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre have been received by the House. It certainly was a splendid day, and we would all have liked to have been present but I know we will all have an opportunity to pay our respects to the right hon. gentleman during the afternoon.

● (1530)

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to join with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) as well as the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) to extend my best wishes to the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) on the occasion of his birthday.

I had the good fortune of knowing the right hon. member as early as 1946 when he was very active in his party and today at his age, an age that probably very few among us will ever reach, he is alert and vigorous. In fact, he is still an example for all members of this House.

[English]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I point out that I did not intend to canonize the right hon. gentleman—not yet. It has been predicted that he will live to 120. However, I want to make it clear that when I referred to the right hon. member for Saint Albert, I