

Point of Order—Mr. Riis

proposals to fund the much needed retraining programs from unemployment benefit funds.

VIA RAIL SERVICES

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, turning to another issue, I have a different petition from a large number of petitioners from Kamloops, British Columbia, who are concerned that the Government of Canada has failed to provide the financial resources necessary to enable VIA Rail to fulfil its promise of improved rail service. It obviously has the ability and yet it simply has never been given the resources by this Government to carry out its mandate successfully.

• (1120)

The petitioners are asking Parliament to maintain, improve, and modernize VIA Rail service, particularly in those areas of the country where it can provide a more rapid, economic, safe, convenient, environmentally sound, and energy efficient alternative to other means of transportation.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. Steve Butland (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I rise hopefully to soften the hardened hearts of the Government. I am pleased to table a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 on behalf of some great Canadians of Ontario. They, too, are protesting the proposed changes in the Unemployment Insurance Act which may, indeed, adversely affect one million Canadians.

Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to present a petition dealing with changes in the Unemployment Insurance Act and signed by a number of Canadians from across the country.

They are protesting the taking of funds from those who are unemployed and directing those funds to retraining, rather than finding new sources of funds for retraining. They are also complaining about the fact that the Government did not mention this in its election platform and are concerned about the fact that it will take one million Canadian, annually, off the unemployment insurance lists, leaving them without any means of support other than at the behest of the provinces.

STARRED QUESTION

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, if would you be so kind as to call Starred Question No. 30, it would be answered today.

Due to the length of the response which is 27 pages, I would ask that it be made an order for return and that this return would be tabled immediately.

Mr. Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

[Text]

GOVERNMENT LAND SOLD OR LEASED

*Question No. 30—**Mr. Karpoff:**

1. For each year since 1984, did the government sell or lease any land and, if so, in each case, (a) what land (b) was it converted to (i) housing (ii) non-housing uses?

2. Does the government currently have title to land in metropolitan areas (a) zoned for residential use (b) used for residential housing and, if so, what is its location?

Return tabled.

[English]

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I ask that all remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Hon. Minister could help the Chair. There is a point of order being raised by the Hon. Member for Kamloops. I will hear that and come back to the Minister of State for Science and Technology immediately thereafter.

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POINT OF ORDER

PLACEMENT OF MOTION ON ORDER PAPER

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate clearly to the Minister who is about to speak that this intervention will be short and in no way is intended to keep him from making his presentation on this space centre.