

Oral Questions

problem differently. We now have a government determined to change the situation of perpetual conflict between the government of Ottawa and the government of Quebec on the presence of the government of Ottawa in the province of Quebec, and on the strength of federalism. I believe the strength of federalism was really demonstrated in the byelections, particularly as a result of the action of Mr. Claude Ryan, but also as a result of the attitude of this federal government.

REQUEST FOR ACTION ON REGIONAL DISPARITIES

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister talks about a change of attitude. We are thinking of the Guy Favreau complex which is not operative yet, of the mapping centre in Sherbrooke, of the tax data centre in Jonquière, of the endangered shipyards in Quebec, of the federal penitentiaries whose construction has been delayed for months, of the Laprade plant, of the \$200 million in compensation that has not been paid to the Quebec government. Mr. Speaker, I am asking the Prime Minister to come back to reality. My question is this: Is this his vision of Canada? Is this his idea of a fair and equitable distribution of riches in this country, to deprive Quebec systematically at a time when GM is going to invest in Ontario, to have a \$60 million ice-breaker built in Ontario? This morning, at a press conference, all the Prime Minister found to say was: "It is the first time in six months that Mr. Lévesque has complained. Our relations with Mr. Loughheed are always excellent". What does he think of Canada? Is he ready to be fair with all regions of the country?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the House that it is not the intention of this government to repeat, for example, the performance of the hon. member for Papineau who on four, five or seven occasions promised the construction of Place Guy Favreau, while there is still just a hole there after all his promises. It is not our intention to continue that policy of empty promises like those which were made so often by the former government. We want to implement a policy in line with the developments in the province of Quebec. We had consultations with the Quebec government on priorities shared by both governments. Our government will, in the near future, make announcements regarding developments which will be followed by action instead in inaction, which was not the case for the announcements often made by the hon. member for Papineau.

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[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

DISPOSITION OF BILL S-2

Mr. Jake Froese (Niagara Falls): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for International Trade. It concerns Bill S-2, an act to repeal the Canada-France trade agreements of 1933 and 1935, in order to allow the use of the

[Mr. Clark.]

word "champagne" to designate Canadian wines of high quality. Given the fact that the Canadian government already renounced these agreements in March of 1975—

An hon. Member: Write him a letter.

Mr. Froese: —and given the fact that no opposition is expected in either House—

An hon. Member: Just lean over and talk to him.

Mr. Froese: —can the minister inform the House when the bill will be coming before this House, so that it can be debated and passed, in order to allow Canadian wine producers to operate without restriction in the promotion of their product?

An hon. Member: Beautiful speech.

Mr. MacEachen: Give us a whisky answer.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of State for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member has pointed out, this legislation is before the other place right now. As soon as it is passed there, I hope that we will be bringing it before this House for proper debate, so that we can get on with the proper use of the appellation "Canadian Champagne" by wine producers in Canada.

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TRANSPORT

INQUIRY WHEN ACTION WILL BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE SAFETY
IN CARRIAGE OF DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport I should like to ask a question of the Minister of State (Transport). In light of impressions created recently in the media that the transportation of dangerous goods act addresses itself to rail safety and the prevention of events like the one at Mississauga, does the minister intend publicly to dispel this illusion immediately and say what actions the department intends to take prior to an inquiry, in order to prevent derailment of dangerous products?

Hon. J. Robert Howie (Minister of State, Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member has raised a very important question. It is one that is under consideration by the department. I will look into it and give the hon. member a more thorough answer within the next few days.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, the events at Mississauga occurred some three weeks ago now. The Minister of Transport has the power, under sections 100 and 227 of the Railway Act, to make regulations limiting speeds and to require the railways to improve their equipment, such as hot box detectors and non-friction bearings. When does the minister intend to act and not just report to me on this question?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!