

## Oral Questions

## CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

REQUEST THAT PENSIONS BE EQUATED WITH THOSE OF  
RETIRED AIR CANADA EMPLOYEES

**Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same minister and it is in reference to Canadian National Railways' pensions. Would the minister give consideration to making representations to the CNR that the pensions of its retired employees be put on a parity with those of retired Air Canada employees?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Yukon.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the minister wanted to answer the question. I should like to repeat it, if the minister did not understand it.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I was looking at the minister and he did not seem to be too anxious to respond. If he wishes to reply now, of course he will be recognized.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** I believe the minister did not understand my question. Therefore I would like to repeat it.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Would the minister give consideration to making representations to the CNR on behalf of CNR employees so as to give them an opportunity to have parity in their pensions with those of Air Canada employees?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, while this does not come under my jurisdiction, I would be glad to see that the representations are passed on.

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## NORTHERN AFFAIRS

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES—PROROGATION OF COUNCIL  
BY COMMISSIONER—REQUEST FOR REPORT—STEPS TO  
PREVENT RECURRENCE

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, what the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport has said in his question indicates how little he knows about the responsibilities of his minister.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Nielsen:** I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister which I put to him—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will have to call on the hon. member for St. Boniface qui invoque le Règlement.

[Translation]

**Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, in my view two ministers working together could perhaps make better

[Mr. Drury.]

representations than only one, although I think that my minister is still the best.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Before the minister rises on a question of privilege, I will recognize the hon. member for Yukon.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Cabinet solidarity seems to be split asunder in more ways than one. On February 13 I directed a question to the Prime Minister concerning the unilateral and arbitrary prorogation of the Northwest Territories Council and at that time, as recorded on page 1231 of *Hansard*, he undertook to look into the facts as they were quite important. I wonder if the Prime Minister—and I direct the question to him and not to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development—has looked into the facts as he stated he would and, if so, will he now say what steps the government is going to take to see that there is no possibility of a recurrence of an incident of this nature?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I undertook to look into the matter, which I did by suggesting to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development that he ascertain the facts and give an answer in the House, which he can do much better than I could.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity of discussing this incident. Of course, there are problems in any democracy and I think that the Commissioner for the Northwest Territories has met with the members of the territorial council and everything seems to be settled. We shall have the opportunity of finding out next month at a new sitting of the territorial council. I intend to be present there in order to discuss these problems at the beginning of the sitting with the members of this council.

[English]

INQUIRY CONCERNING AMENDMENTS TO YUKON ACT  
RESPECTING STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Can the minister inform the House whether it is the intention of the government to introduce in this session amendments to the Yukon Act to incorporate therein the reforms he has promised to the people of the Yukon in the structure of their government?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I did not make quite as many promises to the people in Yukon as the hon. member for Yukon did. I want to say that we will introduce legislation at the proper time but at the speed measures are being passed these days, I am not very optimistic about the possibility of having it adopted very quickly.

[English]

**Mr. Nielsen:** I have one last supplementary question.