

EMERGENCY PROGRAM TO PROVIDE RAILWAY CARS TO MOVE
GRAIN TO MEET EXPORT COMMITMENTS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. In view of statements by the Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board that our export position is in danger and that we may not be considered reliable suppliers because of the transportation situation, can the Prime Minister tell the House whether the minister or the Department of Transport has in hand an emergency program to supply the necessary transportation to move our grain to export?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): As I tried to indicate in my previous answers, Mr. Speaker, the minister is bringing forth to cabinet certain proposals relating to railway cars, and I indicated that this would be announced in the proper way.

Mr. Gleave: In view of the fact the statement by the Minister of Transport did not really deal comprehensively with this matter, may we have some assurance that the minister will at an early date make a statement on motions indicating how he or his department is going to deal with this emergency situation?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the minister dealt at some length with this matter just a few days ago. If the hon. member wants him to deal with other aspects I am sure there will be many other occasions to do so—at the time of consideration of his estimates, on opposition days, or at the time of the minister's own action or announcements in the days and weeks to come.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for St. John's East for a last supplementary question on this subject in view of the fact that we are still on the first round of questions. Following that, the Chair will see the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys.

STUDY BY TRANSPORT COMMISSION OF GROUND
TRANSPORTATION IN NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion in his capacity as Acting Minister of Transport. Has the study undertaken by the Canadian Transport Commission into ground transportation in Newfoundland been completed and, if so, when will the results of that study be released?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that it has been completed, but I will be more than happy to make inquiries for the hon. member. As I recall, at the time it was indicated it would be released as soon as possible after completion. I will get that information and pass it on to him as quickly as possible.

Oral Questions

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

PROGRESS IN BRINGING ABOUT ESCALATION OF PENSIONS
OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES IN LIGHT OF INCREASING COST OF
LIVING

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. In light of the ever-increasing cost of living, can he advise what progress is being made by the board of directors of Canadian National Railways in regard to a much needed escalation of the rates of pension of retired CNR employees?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Here again, Mr. Speaker, I will have to take note of the question on behalf of the minister.

Mr. Muir: In view of the fact that the right hon. gentleman, the leaders of other parties in the House and many other members have received representations from the Retired Railwaymen's Association of the CNR, and in view of the fact this matter was not on the agenda of the January and February meetings of the CNR, will the Prime Minister take a personal interest in the matter and ascertain just how soon these much needed increases will be forthcoming?

Mr. Trudeau: I will make sure that these representations are brought to the attention of the minister, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

TRANSPORT

LACK OF RAILWAY CARS TO MOVE BRITISH COLUMBIA
APPLES—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that apple producers in British Columbia are having to divert good, fresh marketable apples to processors at less money because of the lack of rail cars to transport them to market, what does the government intend to do about this matter of vital concern to the B.C. economy?

● (1130)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated a moment ago, the minister expects to make a statement fairly soon on the question of cars, boxcars.

Mr. Whittaker: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Transport but as he is not here I shall direct it to the Prime Minister. Is the Minister of Transport, when he introduces his new transport policy to overcome his stated lack of a transport policy, going to request the railways to pay heed to the needs of the apple producers of British Columbia?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I am sure these representations will be very much foremost in his mind.