

massive expenditures by this government, to the tune of \$346 million starting next year. This is to encourage Indians to maintain their culture, to allow them to make their reserves economically viable so they will not have to leave them. Certainly with these breakthroughs, Madam Speaker, I would indicate to the hon. member that yes, this should free up additional moneys to afford even greater initiatives in the educational sphere for the Indian people.

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### FISHERIES

#### KIRBY TASK FORCE—INSHORE FISHERY REPRESENTATION

**Miss Coline Campbell (South West Nova):** Madam Speaker, my question is supplementary to the answer given by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to the hon. member for Vancouver South.

If Mr. Kirby is considering representation from a big organization on the east coast, what about the representatives of the large inshore fishery being on that task force as advisers? I would suggest that perhaps this would be an advisory committee which would be set up with the five Atlantic provinces involved. If there is representation from a big organization, I suggest that there has to be someone there from the inshore fishery.

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, perhaps the hon. member did not understand, or hear—

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

**Miss MacDonald:** It is sometimes difficult.

**Mr. LeBlanc:** The Leader of the Opposition should listen occasionally.

**Mr. Clark:** If I can find someone worth listening to.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Maybe you are not quite clear enough.

**Mr. LeBlanc:** Maybe I did not express myself clearly enough. I did make the point very simply that Mr. Nicholson was not there as a representative of a large organization. In fact he resigned in order to work for the task force. I said very clearly that Mr. Kirby had made some efforts to enlist the participation of representatives of the fishermen. I think the hon. member's idea of an advisory committee is a perfectly valid one.

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### CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

#### TERMINATION OF JOBS

**Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware of the story on the wire services attributed to

### Business of the House

Mr. Lawless, President of CN Rail, who has just confirmed that 1,800 railway jobs will be terminated, which will have a disastrous effect generally throughout the CN Railway, but in particular the Atlantic area where it will hit very hard? If he is not aware of it, will he study it and, if he is aware of it, what does he intend to do?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, indeed I am not pleased about it at all. I am aware of these reductions in employment. This is due, of course, to a reduction in traffic which was 8 per cent in the second half of last year compared to the first half.

In making his announcement today, Mr. Lawless made the observation that because of early retirement and relocation benefits the number of people affected will be significantly less than the number of positions being abolished.

**Miss MacDonald:** It is still 1,800 people out of work.

**Mr. Pepin:** This should be borne in mind. Another point Mr. Lawless makes is that these people are entitled to supplemental employment benefits which amount to 80 per cent of their salaries. This is not by way of compensation for the jobs which will be lost, but these are two important qualifying factors in the announcement.

#### RAILWAY PROFITS

**Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants):** Madam Speaker, I am glad that the minister is aware of the story. I would like to point out two other factors which I hope he would discuss with Mr. Lawless, to see if he could rationalize how a Crown corporation, at a time when all Canadians are experiencing dire straits in one form or another—the loss of a job or job opportunity is about as dire as you can get—how a Crown corporation can eliminate jobs, and announce in the same story a profit of \$180 million for the year. At the same time, its competitor, CP, which is experiencing the same economic decline as is affecting this country, is not laying off one person.

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I do not know all of the comparative details between CP and CN on that subject. CN obviously is not in the business of losing money. It is not in the business of declaring a deficit every year. This Parliament has asked CN to be run in an efficient manner, so it occasionally declares a profit. If it followed the principles implied in the hon. member's question, it would not be in a position to do that.

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● (1500)

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

#### WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Mr. Nielsen:** Madam Speaker, might I ask the government House leader the usual Thursday question relating to the