

● (1450)

## SOCIAL SECURITY

### PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR MINORITY GROUPS

**Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Multiculturalism. The Hum and Chan Study on Chinese in Winnipeg indicates the problem of program take-up for Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement among minority groups. Has the Directorate of Multiculturalism undertaken, or will the Minister undertake studies on this problem, and has the Minister of National Health and Welfare conferred with him on the negative and discriminatory way in which her six and five bills disproportionately affect groups such as the Chinese, who, I might add, are celebrating 125 years in Canada this year and are celebrating the Chinese New Year as well this weekend?

**Hon. Jim Fleming (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)):** Madam Speaker, while celebrating, may I congratulate the Hon. Member on his recent marriage.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Fleming:** May I also thank him for giving me notice of his question, although I just received it in the course of Question Period. Therefore, I am not familiar with the detail of the Hum and Chan study.

I have had a chance in the last few minutes to talk to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. She has indicated to me that, indeed, in the case of the Guaranteed Income Supplement, there are some indications, if I am correct, of difficulties because of language barriers, particularly for some of our Canadians of particular ethnic origins, in becoming aware of the availability of the program and taking up the opportunity. I know that through our discussion and notice of the question that she has indicated to me she will be looking further to see what can be done about that situation. However, I do not see how that can relate to the six and five program.

**Mr. Malone:** Madam Speaker, I trust that the Hon. Member for Dauphin will be sending a copy of today's *Hansard* to his fiancée.

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

**Mr. Epp:** Wrong again, Jim.

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## RAILWAYS

### MEASUREMENT OF PERFORMANCE IN TRANSPORTING GRAIN

**Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. It is based on the same question that I asked the Prime Minister a week ago. Bearing in mind that he has stated his intention of making changes with respect to the Crow rate, and knowing that the

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railways will be getting more funding from both the Government and the farmers, will there be an assured method of guaranteeing a record of performance by the railways and how will that performance be measured? Will there be a penalty attached such that the Government can ensure that the railways will meet the record of performance that is established in the new legislation that is to come forward?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I believe I can make three points on the subject. First, the railways, in return for interim payments, have committed themselves in public to a number of investments. This is public knowledge now, so anyone in Canada, particularly the press, will be in a position to judge the implementation of these investments.

Second, with respect to CN at least, CN has to present an annual budget and a five-year plan to the Government so that the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Transport and others will be in a position to determine if CN in particular is living up to the five-year plan that it has presented to the Government.

Third, in addition to all that we will have a system under which the co-ordinating agency will supervise and monitor the guarantees that the railways will be giving on a yearly basis as, for example, to how many tonnes they will transport to Thunder Bay, Vancouver, and so on.

There will be a trial period—this is possibly what my hon. friend is talking about—in which a system of punishment and rewards will be tested. After a trial period this will be implemented on a fully executive basis.

**Mr. Malone:** Regarding the notion that the railways would make a commitment to themselves, the Minister should be reminded that Judas made commitments to himself.

### MONITORING OF VOLUME DELIVERIES

**Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot):** Is the Minister presuming that it is satisfactory to call for an increase in the cost to farmers without in fact having a specific target of delivery by volume within the legislation, and that this will be left to a Government five-year plan without farmer input into that plan, and left to a study of the railways without having penalties attached? To do otherwise is simply to tax the taxpayers and tax the farmers for the good of all Canadians for the movement of grain, but with no results for guarantee of delivery. Will the Minister at least take under advisement that there is a necessity to have a guaranteed commitment of volume delivery, otherwise the plan is doomed to failure?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, the monitoring agency will have representatives of different groups in the grain industry. There representatives will be able to make their views very well known.

My hon. friend should compare the future regime to what exists now. What exists now is a fixed rate of one-half cent per