

## Oral Questions

## TRANSPORT

## TOLLS ON ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY—POSSIBILITY OF INCREASE

**Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington):** Mr. Speaker, I have an urgent question for the Minister of Transport. I hope his answer will not be kept a secret from the Canadian people. Pursuant to the opening of navigation on the St. Lawrence Seaway, and in the interest of our Canadian trade and the economic industrial production of the heartland of Canada, can the minister assure the House there will be no further increase in tolls and shipping fees on this waterway now or in the foreseeable future?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I stated that we are revising the whole transportation policy. The seaway is part of this. There is the problem of refinancing with regard to the seaway. As the hon. member knows, the present debt of the seaway is approximately \$800 million. Therefore, the cabinet will have to address itself to this question. I cannot indicate now what will be the decision of the cabinet.

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## AGRICULTURE

## DECLINE IN EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO COUNTERACT

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Given the fact that Canada's agricultural trade with the United States dropped by some \$39 million last year over the previous year, and having regard to the fact that only a mere doubling of wheat sales avoided an overall decline in the exports of Canadian agricultural products, can the minister say whether any new initiatives are being considered by the government with regard to a more aggressive and effective marketing policy for Canada's agricultural products?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member will want me to put on record that our exports of agricultural products is one reason we did not have a deficit in our trade balance. Our trade with the United States is important. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce spent some time in Cuba and is in Venezuela at the present time. The Prime Minister recently returned from Europe. Agricultural trade was discussed at all these meetings. We gained concessions in our cheddar cheese program with the common market. We are doing all that the hon. member has asked.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, the minister cannot get away with a frivolous answer like that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I hesitate to interrupt at this time, but I did direct a specific question to the Minister of Agriculture concerning

[Mr. Speaker.]

our trade with the United States and a \$39 million decline in our overall trade. I asked the minister specifically what steps he has taken in order to restore that trade with the United States, particularly in the beef industry. The minister avoided that question completely.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I thought I should ask permission to return to motions later today in order to deal with the adjournment motion.

**Mr. Speaker:** With that indication, and anticipating what may take place in that regard if discussions are fruitful and some agreement develops out of those discussions, it will be my pleasure, as has been the customary practice on occasions of this sort, to receive hon. members later this day in Room 16.

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

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, we agree to this request. At the same time, I hope the minister will bring forward the motion to refer the Hermann report to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs.

**Mr. Sharp:** That is my intention, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** That is agreeable to us as well, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

● (1530)

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

## NORTHERN CANADA POWER COMMISSION ACT

## AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND POWERS OF COMMISSION

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-13, to amend the Northern Canada Power Commission Act as reported from the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motions Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 5 appear to be acceptable on procedural grounds. Motion No. 4 would appear to introduce a new and substantive provision, not into the amending statute but into the legislation itself. Perhaps when the time arrives further discussion might take place as to its admissibility. In the meantime the Chair will proceed to put motion No. 1 standing in the name of the hon. member for the Yukon.

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon)** moved motion No. 1:

That Bill C-13, an Act to amend the Northern Canada Power Commission Act, be amended in Clause 1 by striking out lines 19 and 20 on page 1 and substituting the following therefor:

(2) Subsection 3(7) of the said Act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

(7) A quorum shall not be properly constituted and shall not conduct business unless four days clear notice of the meeting has been given to each member of the Commission at his ordinary place of residence.