

Oral Questions

Mr. Crosbie: I can assure him, yes, I am working both sides of the street. I am working the whole street. We are going to reclaim the public streets of Canada, in Toronto, in Calgary, in Vancouver, in Halifax, in St. John's they are already all right—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: —in Burnaby—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: —without discrimination against both men or women, or gender discrimination. There will be no discrimination. We are going to stop street soliciting both on behalf of those who sell sex and those who wish to purchase sex. That is the objective of our legislation, and that is what it will do.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

TRANSPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS OF MR. JUSTICE HALL—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport.

We know how important the grain transportation policy is to Quebec farmers and to producers in Western Canada. This morning the papers reported that the Government was going to wait at least a year before implementing the recommendations of the Hall Report. Could the Minister inform the House whether this is indeed the Government's policy?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as I said in the House earlier, the report of the Hall inquiry into the method of payment is being considered and will be debated hopefully in a comprehensive fashion. Also under the provisions of the Act, it is mandated to conduct a review during the crop year 1985-86. Of course the subject matter of the Hall inquiry and its recommendations will be included in the course of that review.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, considering the Minister's answer and the importance these decisions will have for producers in Quebec, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, does this mean that the Hall recommendations will not affect Canadian producers, either in Eastern or Western Canada, before the 1987-88 season?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the recommendations that have been advanced have been advanced under a set of criteria with the one important criterion being the method of payment that will be the most conducive to agricultural development in Canada and, second, a method of payment that will not be unfair or disproportionate to sectors of western agriculture relative to other regions of the country.

The recommendations that have been brought forth, I think, are very interesting ones. They should be considered in a very thoughtful and comprehensive fashion.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

INDEXATION OF PENSIONS—MINISTER'S POWERS

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board. It concerns the grave misgivings that members of the Public Service, the unions, and also superannuated members of the Public Service are expressing over the announcement that the Government is proposing to deindex public service pensions. The agreement with the alliance states that pension adjustments for inflation, and I quote: "will be determined by the President of the Treasury Board on the basis of the recommendations of the management board", that is the union-employer management board that is being proposed.

Is the Government proposing that the Minister will be able to veto or to change recommendations of that management board on inflation adjustment? If so, why should the public service unions give up the statutory indexing they now have, for a grace and favour system which gives the power to the Minister?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, let me say that first it is an agreement in principle. It is a basis for negotiating the final agreement that we can reach with both parties on the issues of pensions.

● (1140)

The reference to the power of the Minister is really with regard to the financial soundness of the plan. The management board will be set up, and as far as the management board making recommendations that are consistent with the financial soundness of the plan is concerned, there is no problem. It is not a veto power of any kind.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEE

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, in view of the grave concern about this and the fact that there may be some other verbal understandings not contained within the agreement, is the Minister prepared to appear before the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates, or another