

TRANSPORT

RAILWAY PASSENGER SERVICE, SOUTHWESTERN
ONTARIO—IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport regarding passenger service in southwestern Ontario. I believe representations have been made to him in this regard. Is the minister going to take early action on these reports?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have to meet with the government of Ontario before we reach any decision here.

Mr. McKinley: Will this meeting be in regard to setting up a joint study group with the province and municipalities as the committee report suggested?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to give the results of a meeting before the meeting takes place.

DATE OF TOTAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM STUDY

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Can the minister advise the House as to the date of the joint study on the total transportation system, referred to in the Speech from the Throne?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Does the hon. member mean for the whole country?

Mr. Mazankowski: That is right, Mr. Speaker. It was stated in the Speech from the Throne that a total transportation study would take place.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I have already mentioned that I intend to meet with provincial authorities on this matter before reaching any conclusion.

Mr. Mazankowski: Can the minister advise whether this study has any priority or will it be sloughed off until next year?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A question asked in those terms is irregular.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

DISCUSSIONS ON AMENDMENT OF PENSION PLAN TO
PROVIDE PAYMENTS ON BASIS OF 2 PER CENT PER YEAR
OF SERVICE

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Is the minister having discussions with Canadian National Railways concerning the desirability of amending the Canadian National pension plan to provide for pensions on the basis of 2 per cent for each year of service as is the case for Air Canada employees and federal public servants?

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian National and the Canadian Pacific are now negotiating with the railway employees' unions and this is one of the items to be discussed. When I met the two presidents a few weeks ago, I indicated that I was certainly interested in the issue of the pension fund and I expressed hope that they would find a solution to this problem which has been pending too long already.

[Later:]

[English]

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the one asked by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. In the discussions about transport at the meeting with the western provinces, will security of tenure or job security for the employees and the subject of their pensions be included?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, this is certainly a problem which must be discussed with the provinces and the railway companies. For the time being, I am not in a position to decide on that question which is certainly an important one to be settled.

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[English]

AIRPORT

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL—RUNWAY EXPANSION—
REQUEST THAT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY BE
PROVIDED TO EXPROPRIATION HEARINGS

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Has the minister prepared any environmental impact study relating to the effects of the proposed new runway at Vancouver International Airport and, if so, will it be filed with the hearing officer and the objectors in time for consideration at the expropriation hearings which commence next Wednesday, January 17, 1973, in Vancouver?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, before a runway is built, the department examines all the aspects of such a project—the environmental aspects and the technical aspects. So, I cannot give a specific answer about the Vancouver case, but the study has certainly been made.

[English]

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for his answer but the point is that when these hearings close the expropriations will be confirmed. I want to know whether any environmental impact study is going to be put before these hearings before they are closed. Once they are closed it is too late; expropriation will take place.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is making a speech. He can ask a question.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, the question is whether this environmental impact study will be put in front of this hearing before it is closed, not afterwards.