

*Oral Questions***TRANSPORT**

DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICY FOR SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Has he had an opportunity since the time of his appointment to acquaint himself with the problems of the people of southwestern Ontario who have been without adequate public transportation since the government allowed the railways in 1971 to discontinue passenger service in the area and, if so, when will he be making the government's long awaited and much promised announcement of a public transportation policy for the area?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have had occasion to look at quite a number of aspects of transportation in the southwestern Ontario area. There are some studies going on into a variety of questions there, including questions of improved rail service and studies with the province of Ontario in relation to transport in that area. Of course, the province of Ontario has significant responsibilities in the field as well and that should not be forgotten. At this point I do not have a date and I cannot predict the time of the announcement of further measures, but I can assure the hon. member that we are looking at the over-all situation very closely.

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FOREIGN INVESTMENT

EFFECT OF REFUSAL OF BID BY WHITE CONSOLIDATED TO TAKE OVER WESTINGHOUSE—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PROTECT JOBS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce I should like to direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister regarding the gun that White Consolidated Industries is pointing at the head of the government with regard to the deal of Westinghouse. I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister, in light of the urgency and importance of the matter, whether he and members of the cabinet have met with White Consolidated, General Steel Wares, Westinghouse and the union involved and, if so, whether this entire matter has been resolved to ensure the protection of 2,300 jobs. Can he report anything in that regard?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I cannot report it quite as definitely as the hon. gentleman has asked for in his question. However, various members of the government have been concerned about this issue, and we have had some consultations collectively about it. I am not certain what the next step should be. We have been in touch with some of the parties concerned, but we have not met them collectively.

● (1500)

Mr. Alexander: I am very surprised that the Acting Prime Minister should indicate he is not sure what the next step should be, keeping in mind that this matter must be resolved by October 31, which is the deadline in terms

[Mr. Sharp.]

of the option to purchase. After all the discussions the minister has had, can he now assure this House that this matter will be resolved by October 31? If not, this whole contract will be frustrated, and therefore 2,300 jobs will be in jeopardy. Can he assure this House that the matter will be determined by the 31st of this month?

Mr. Sharp: I would like to be able to give that assurance; however, as the hon. gentleman knows, we do not have the necessary authority. For example, we had certain authority, in connection with the takeover bid, to make a decision. I do not think because of a lack of constitutional and legal authority we have authority to require any of the parties to take any particular action. However, we are trying as much as we can to bring about the same objective as the hon. member has in mind.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I should like to raise a point of order with respect to what is anticipated to be the controversial report of Mr. Justice Bayda on west coast grain handling. On October 17, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro), in response to a question asked by me, indicated in the House that he would be tabling this report within a week. I now discover that the report, which suggests a special tribunal be set up to enforce stiff penalties on management of labour groups involved in illegal grain handling disputes, has in fact been leaked. It seems to me that if this report is in fact ready, the government has an obligation to lay it upon the table so that all members of parliament and the public may see it in the ordinary course of events, rather than having it come through some kind of leak through the press.

Mr. Leblanc (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, the report referred to by the hon. member has been received and is being reviewed by the department. It should be tabled within a few days.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

[English]

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 2,964, 3,012, 3,053, 3,068, 3,123 and 3,168.

[Text]

SWIMMING POOL AT 24 SUSSEX DRIVE

Question No. 2,964—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. What is the annual estimated cost of all aspects of the swimming pool at the Prime Minister's official residence and of the underground tunnel leading thereto including (a) heating, fuel and electrical power (b) water and cleaning and purifying (c) salaries of all full or part-time staff involved?

2. In each case, will all such costs be paid for from public funds?

3. What is a complete list of all the items of furniture, carpets and appertinences including (a) saunas (b) bars and bar equipment (c)