

TRANSPORT**U.S. CUSTOMS REGULATIONS RESPECTING BOX CARS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport and ask him whether there have been any recent changes in United States customs regulations which would further aggravate the present disparity between the large numbers of Canadian box cars in the United States compared with the numbers of United States box cars in Canada.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman was good enough to give me notice of this question. Early last week I learned that the United States customs had approved the suspension until March 1 of normal customs duty requirements in the use of Canadian box cars for the handling of paper products originated by two shippers at Plattsburg, New York. I took immediate steps to draw the unfavourable aspects of this matter to the attention of the United States authorities, and I am very glad to say that this arrangement operated for only one day. I could give a more detailed answer, but I think that that perhaps might suffice.

Mr. Douglas: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister whether any representations are being made to the government of the United States to rectify the great disparity between the numbers of Canadian box cars in the United States and the numbers of United States box cars in Canada, which disparity for some time has been running at a ratio of almost three to one against Canada.

Mr. Pickersgill: Of course, Mr. Speaker, the United States railways are not under the direct control of the United States government. I understand that constant conversations are going on about this between the Association of American Railroads, as I think they are called over there, and our railways. I may say that the American Association of Railroads itself took action against this suspension, which was applied for by one railroad in the United States.

WATER RESOURCES**GREAT LAKES—DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. RESPECTING ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURES**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State

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for External Affairs. In the light of the announcement made yesterday evening by the President of the United States of a major anti-pollution campaign in that country, is the minister giving consideration to discussing immediately with the United States government co-operative measures to clean up the pollution of the great lakes with special reference to lake Erie, and accelerating action on this problem in relation to the program announced by the President of the United States yesterday.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I think I dealt with part of this question some days ago when it was indicated that the International Joint Commission had made an interim report with regard to pollution particularly in lake Erie, and that the recommendations of the commission were now before the governments of the United States and Canada.

In this connection my colleague more particularly concerned with natural resources did make a statement in the house.

Mr. Fulton: I am sorry; I did not hear that.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): With respect to the position the government of Canada would take, my colleague did make a statement in answer to a question put to him, I believe, by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka.

Mr. Fulton: My question related primarily to the announcement reported last evening and in this morning's papers, the anti-pollution program announced by the President of the United States. What is the relationship between that program and the problem of pollution in the great lakes? Perhaps the minister concerned could tell us something about that.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): I am meeting this afternoon with Mr. Heeney, the Canadian chairman of the International Joint Commission, and this subject will be brought up.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**ONTARIO—LEVELS OF PESTICIDES IN MILK**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I should like to direct a question either to the Minister of National Health and Welfare or to the Minister of Agriculture depending on which of them deals with this matter. I may say I gave both hon. gentlemen notice of this question.