

Order Paper Questions

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): I am not sure that I understand the question. Would my hon. friend care to explain it?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McKnight: I know I should not do this, Madam Speaker, but to explain, I am referring to the abandoned rights of way owned by Canadian National, with the agreement between CN and the federal Government in 1977 that those abandoned rights of way would be turned over to the federal Government.

What progress has been made with the negotiations on the transfer from Canadian National to the federal Government of Canada of the rights of way owned by CN in Saskatchewan?

Mr. Pepin: That took place some time ago. That is why it was not currently in my mind. My memory is to the effect that those rights of way have indeed been offered back to the Provinces. They have been offered. I should not say that they have been offered "back", because they never had them in the first place.

My memory is that Alberta has accepted. My memory is that Manitoba has accepted. My memory is that Saskatchewan has not accepted, but my memory does not tell me if it has changed its mind with the coming of the new provincial Government. I will check on that.

Mr. Epp: Everything is new.

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AGRICULTURE

TAX ON FARM FUELS—REQUEST FOR RELIEF

Mr. Len Gustafson (Assiniboia): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It involves a matter I have raised in the House with the Minister of Agriculture, the very heavy-handed federal tax placed upon farmers for farm fuel, which amounts to about 66 cents a gallon. The Minister of Agriculture said that he would make representation to the Cabinet. There was nothing in the budget. The farmers are preparing to seed their crops this spring. The heavy tax is there and it is very counterproductive to the production of grain by farmers and to all of agriculture. Would the Minister give consideration to removing some of this heavy tax?

• (1200)

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I am always willing to give some consideration to all types of problems—

Mr. Mazankowski: Do something.

Mr. Chrétien: I see the Hon. Member for Vegreville—

Mr. Mazankowski: Looking after your constituents.

Mr. Chrétien: Most of the talk coming from his Province is to the effect that the price that we have in Canada is too low and that we should let the price go to international levels. If you compare the level of taxation from the federal Government in Canada, it is very comparable to the situation which exists in the United States.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chrétien: Of course, if the taxes are higher in some parts of Canada, mainly Ontario and Quebec, it is because of the infamous essence surtax as in Quebec which costs 40 per cent on top of everything to the farmers of Quebec.

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[Translation]

PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Thursday, May 12, 1983, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

MISCELLANEOUS PRIVATE BILLS AND STANDING ORDERS

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Madam Speaker, I have the honour of tabling, in both official languages, the Twelfth Report of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and Standing Orders.

[Editor's Note: For above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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[English]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 4,780, 4,781 and 4,782.