

rents some of those individuals would have difficulty paying, they may apply for rent geared to income.

However, I think the Hon. Member would have to agree that individuals who have the ability to pay should pay, so that we can use scarce dollars to subsidize those who need assistance. I would think that would be something that this Government and he would support.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, I wrote to the Minister some weeks ago and I am still waiting for a reply on this issue. However, I have in my hand a letter he sent to the local Progressive Conservative candidate in Beaches-Woodbine in which the Minister says the opposite to what he has just told the House. He knows that CMHC does not have to go before the Rent Review Board in Ontario.

Is the Minister advocating to the Public Service groups, the superannuates, and everyone else who lost income under the six and five program, that they should now come after the Minister to make up their losses?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member asked a question in the House earlier on Main Square, and I replied in the House. The Hon. Member has applied to bring his question up on the adjournment debate and I hope that debate can come forward. I would reiterate that CMHC rent increases would relate to the very same guidelines, and the Corporation would be in a position to substantiate them if it were called to appear before the Rent Review Board. That is what I said in my first reply and that will be the course that CMHC will follow. I think the Hon. Member should appreciate that because it is not bound by law, as he knows, to appear before or abide by the Board.

Mr. Young: Why don't you do it?

Mr. McKnight: We are substantiating the increases with reference to the same guidelines that the Ontario Rent Review Board would require.

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[Translation]

TRANSPORT

CONSTRUCTION OF VIA RAIL MAINTENANCE PLANT— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Transport whether he realizes that since last September, several thousand jobs depending either directly or indirectly on the transportation industry have been lost in the Montreal area. Since the Minister will soon be making a speech in Montreal within the next few days I am told will he take advantage of this opportunity to give the go ahead for construction on the VIA Rail maintenance centre that would create some badly needed jobs in the Montreal area?

Oral Questions

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of State (Transport)): Mr. Speaker, I can inform the Hon. Member for Papineau that we are aware of the economic situation in the City of Montreal. However, I would like to correct the impression the Hon. Member is trying to give the House in claiming that the maintenance centre—our decision is to be taken at a later date, depending, as we have always said, on our financial resources—would necessarily be a centre to create jobs. I may remind the Hon. Member that since maintenance is currently being carried out by Canadian National, transferring all the maintenance now being done by CN to a hypothetical maintenance centre would represent a considerable loss of jobs. So this is a case where it is more a matter of transferring jobs than creating new ones. That is the context in which we are weighing various possibilities. Now I am ready for another question.

TRANSPORT INDUSTRY'S FRAGILITY IN MONTREAL— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

I would like to ask the Minister whether he is aware of the fact that a report by the economic expansion office of the Montreal Urban Community has revealed that the transportation industry in Montreal is showing signs of being considerably weakened, and however the Minister would like to explain this, I would like to know what his Government intends to do to create jobs in the transportation industry in Montreal.

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of State (Transport)): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member has a marvelous capacity for forgetting that he was in power for 20 years before September 4.

The situation in Montreal today did not come into being on September 4. You had any number of opportunities to prevent what is happening now and you did nothing, absolutely nothing. Mr. Speaker, that is the situation in Montreal and it all happened under the Liberal regime. Instead of creating a debt of \$35 billion, you should have had some concern for what was happening in Quebec.

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● (1500)

[English]

IMMIGRATION

RESIGNATION OF REVIEW COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, today we have been hearing about guidelines. There are guidelines in immigration too. It seems that in immigration the jungle guidelines are often more dangerous than the predators. In fact we read that