

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Hamilton West is rising on a point of order, following which I will recognize the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar.

**Mr. Alexander:** Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to let the minister know that I think that is a stupid and irresponsible statement to make.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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### GRAIN

#### POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF HOPPER CARS—ACTION TO SECURE RETURN OF CARS FROM UNITED STATES—NUMBER OF CARS PROVIDED BY RAILWAYS UNDER COMMITMENT

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of reports that the government is considering the purchase of more hopper cars and rolling stock for the railroads, can the minister tell the House whether he has received any commitment or assurance from the railroads that they will be able to secure the return of some of the thousands of Canadian boxcars which, according to the president of the CNR, are currently being held and used in the United States?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the exact situation on hopper cars is that requests have been made to us to consider additional hopper cars. This, of course, involves the question of the obligations of both the government and the railways in this matter. There are always reasons why a certain number of Canadian cars are in the United States. I understand that, particularly in the case of lumber, some warehousing is going on in railway cars, but I am sure that the railways as well as the government are very interested in getting them back.

**Mr. Gleave:** What I asked the minister was whether he had had any assurance from or discussions with the railways in regard to this question. Of course, there is not much use our proceeding if we are going to lose our transportation facilities at the other end. Might I ask the minister whether the railroads have lived up to their commitment under the previous agreement when we purchased boxcars? Have the railways lived up to their commitment at that time to maintain the percentage of rolling stock that they would make available for the movement of grain?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, the exact commitment under the agreement is not to allow an acceleration of the manner in which boxcars were being removed from the movement of this product. I have not had a chance to assess in detail how close they are to that exact level, but we will be watching that. They are very close to the commitments they made in discussions with the Canadian Wheat Board in regard to the number of cars they could put into the grain movement, though, of course, the number is not sufficient to satisfy the present need.

### Oral Questions

#### ENERGY

##### EXTENSION OF OIL PIPELINE TO MONTREAL—REASON FOR NOT ACTING EARLIER

**Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that in 1969 the Prime Minister and his cabinet turned down a strong plea from the Independent Petroleum Association to build a pipeline to Montreal, and as recently as January 29 of this year flatly turned down a proposal from the Alberta government that such a pipeline should be built, would the Prime Minister say whether the government accepts responsibility for these tragic mistakes, and why did the government wait until September 4 before taking action?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that is debate or argument, not a question, and therefore is not in order.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, there were some allegations made which perhaps should be answered.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I do not want to prevent the Prime Minister from replying to the question, but I would suggest to hon. members that perhaps there is not much to be gained by debating a question which clearly is out of order. I prefer to recognize the hon. member for Vaudreuil.

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#### FINANCE

##### REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE OF SUPPLY OF CAPITAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CANADIAN RESOURCES

**Mr. H. T. Herbert (Vaudreuil):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Noting that the Toronto-Dominion Bank has lent \$375 million to Mexico to develop oil wells, can the minister assure us that he will take any measures necessary to guarantee an adequate supply of Canadian capital for resource development in this country?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman should not underestimate the fertility of our own capital markets.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We have run short of time but I will recognize the hon. member for Victoria.

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#### ENERGY

##### EXTENSION OF OIL PIPELINE TO MONTREAL—REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 4

**Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. The Prime Minister stated last night and again today that the decision to construct a pipeline was announced on September 4. In *Hansard* he is reported as saying that "the government will also hold early consultations with provinces and