

Oral Questions

of inflation down, then there is not much hope of growth or future employment for Canada, or any other industrialized country for that matter. That is the situation.

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RAILWAYS

TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Mr. Douglas Fisher (Mississauga North): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and it concerns the transportation of dangerous goods. Since Bill C-18 was passed over a year ago and since the Canadian Transport Commission issued its regulations following up on the Grange inquiry's report, a couple of weeks ago, could the minister tell us what is the status of his ministry's work with respect to the regulations to supplement Bill C-18 and thus bring us safer transportation methods for dangerous goods?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, my hon. friend is right in identifying these two developments as being of major importance to the transportation of dangerous goods. Indeed, the bill the House passed a year ago has progressed. Laws have been passed by some of the provinces, which are complementary to that bill. Regulations are being drafted. It is expected they will be ready by early summer, 1982. As well, federal inspectors are being appointed, and so on.

With respect to the Grange report, 12 recommendations have already been acted upon and three are now the subject of decisions by the CTC. The Canadian Transport Commission will be issuing orders in the coming days. Therefore, progress is being accomplished, and I would be delighted to send a more detailed report to my hon. friend.

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HOUSING

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO HOME OWNERS

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for housing whose earlier response indicated his insensitivity to the social unrest that the government's high mortgage rate policy is causing to so many Canadians. For instance, thousands of women are being forced into the labour market in order to bring a second income into the family hoping that with it they will be able to keep their homes, but in a stagnant economy jobs cannot be found. Without jobs, people are unable to keep their homes. It is a vicious circle caused by high interest rates.

Is the minister at all prepared to do anything, anything except tell home owners, as he did on September 15, to grit their teeth and hang on until the budget, because I can assure him that there are a good many people who would rather sink their teeth into the government?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I would like to assure the hon. member that earlier in September, I had the opportunity to meet with—

Mr. Crosbie: Surrounded by mounties.

Mr. Cosgrove:—approximately 50 people representing those who expressed the same sentiments, probably in a much more vociferous manner than did the hon. member this afternoon. Some of the positions presented to me on the day of the convoy of anger to the House were from people in the same circumstances as those which the hon. member has just expressed. Eloquent expressions were made to me and to other members of our caucus. We listened to them for approximately one hour. I communicated their message to members of my government and to my caucus. I believe the Minister of Finance has responded to that question. He has indicated that along with other people in the marketplace, such as the financial institutions playing their role and taking their responsibilities seriously, the government too will take its responsibility.

RENTAL OF VANCOUVER APARTMENT FOR SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, the minister has made it clear just in that last response that he has done nothing, and it does not appear as though the government is prepared to do anything. Since he is not taking his responsibilities seriously as minister of housing to thousands of Canadian families who are losing their homes, can he tell me why he, as Minister of Public Works—or perhaps it was the Secretary of State for External Affairs—authorized the rental of an apartment in Vancouver at \$4,000 a month for the next five years for a senior civil servant in charge of transpo? He does nothing for beleaguered home owners, but he authorizes the expenditure of \$4,000 a month in rent for a senior civil servant. What in heaven's name is he thinking of?

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, in response to the hon. member's introduction that I am not taking my responsibilities seriously, I would like to assure her that I am. I would like to assure her that since interest rates have gone into the above 15 per cent category I have met not only with home owners and people affected in that regard, but I have also met with people associated with housing construction. As a matter of fact I will be meeting with representatives of HUDAC tomorrow afternoon. I have met with provincial ministers responsible for housing. I have also prepared advice for the government, which it is presently considering. I have taken those responsibilities seriously, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Kempling: What about the \$4,000 a month expenditure?