

Oral Questions

from the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party, are in fact taking these matters under serious consideration.

We want to make sure that there is a proper role for parliamentarians in the examination of important—

Mr. Gauthier: Do it now.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: We will be awaiting the recommendations of this committee. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that the Hon. Member will be pleased with the results of that particular recommendation.

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RAILWAYS

GRAIN AND FLOUR FREIGHT SUBSIDIES

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Is the Government or his Department reviewing the freight rate subsidies on grain and flour to Atlantic ports, namely, the At and East rates, with a view to reducing or removing the subsidies?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the issue to which the Hon. Member refers of course would require a legislative change. A number of suggestions have been made that the At and East rate proposal should be reviewed for the most advantageous cost benefit analysis. Of course that is being done, but at the present time there are no contemplated legislative changes that are currently being considered or drafted.

REQUEST THAT SUBSIDIES BE RETAINED

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): I do not particularly like people who say "I told you so", but when we were discussing the Crown rate Bill and I had access to a Cabinet document, and the intention of the Government for the long term was to remove the Government from under any and all transportation subsidies.

In view of the fact that the At and East rates keep ports like Halifax and St. John competitive on the export market, provide millions of dollars of revenue for those ports and hundreds of jobs, and help western grain producers' export sales, will the Minister assure the House that the At and East rates on grain and flour through the Atlantic ports will in fact be retained?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, first the Hon. Member refers to Cabinet documents. He is accustomed to having Cabinet documents that are usually two years old, so I really would not comment further on that.

With regard to the importance of the At and East rates, I recognize, as I am sure do all other Hon. Members, the importance of the At and East rates and certainly that will be taken into consideration.

I believe that history will show that this Member and this Party took a very strong stand in support of the retention of the At and East rates, and he should not forget that. He is not the great samaritan on that particular issue.

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EMPLOYMENT

CHALLENGE '85—SIZE OF RESPONSE

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour as Acting Minister of Employment and Immigration. In spite of the fact that NDP and Liberal Members predicted the failure of the Challenge '85 Program, I am swamped with applications in Bow River. Is this same strong endorsement of Challenge '85 apparent in other constituencies?

[Translation]

Hon. Andrée Champagne (Minister of State (Youth)): Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer my hon. friend's question, in the absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

Mr. Nystrom: It is a hard one.

Mrs. Champagne: Not at all, and I shall be delighted to answer it, Mr. Speaker, if I may.

If we consider the SEED program which aims to develop experience on the job, we expected to create 73,000 jobs but have now received requests for 173,000.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Order. I think that is enough of an announcement at this time.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

PREMIER'S TRIAL—INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to—

An Hon. Member: Squeak it out.

Mr. Nunziata: As a Member of Parliament I have a right to ask questions in the House, and I would appreciate it if Hon. Members would stop insulting me while I am asking my questions.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mazankowski: Tough.

An Hon. Member: Go get a rattle.

Mr. Nunziata: Hon. Members opposite may throw insults and hum and haw, but the Canadian public wants answers to questions.