

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, there are a number of bills before the United States Congress at this time. It is impossible to comment on them en bloc because some parts of them are favourable and others are not. With respect to those that are not favourable to our trade relations and, we believe, to world trade patterns, we have made the proper representations and drawn attention to the effect of these possible legislative acts on Canadian trade, in particular with respect to mink skins which the hon. member has in mind.

Mr. Noble: Has the government given consideration to introducing measures to assist industries that will suffer from the passing of the Mills bill?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I believe it is premature to think of that now, the bills not having been passed.

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TRANSPORT

FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN NEWFOUNDLAND AND
LABRADOR—ADEQUACY OF SHIP
AND FACILITIES

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Would the minister advise the House whether he has had submitted to him a report dealing with the unsatisfactory conditions on the ferry service between Newfoundland and Labrador, and will any corrective action be taken in view of the recent accident?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have had a report with regard to the seaworthiness of the vessel concerned. My officials advise that they have checked her out thoroughly in accordance with all the procedures of the regulations and that the vessel is seaworthy. The conclusion subsequent to that was that most of the problem arises from the fact that the ship is not wholly perfect in terms of design for ferry service, and there are also difficulties with the facilities at each end of the run. I have asked for a special and further study of these questions and I will be glad to keep the hon. member informed.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

ST. JOHN'S NFLD.—INVESTIGATION OF ACCIDENT INVOLVING
SNOW CLEARING EQUIPMENT

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Before I proceed, may I congratulate the minister on the honour bestowed upon him last week by Memorial University when he received an honorary law degree.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Carter: May I ask the minister whether he is now in a position to say if the investigation promised last year

[Mr. Noble.]

into the accident near St. John's involving some Canadian National snow removal equipment has been completed and, if so, what has been the outcome of the investigation?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his kind words. I will now have to reduce some of my general mistrust of lawyers, under the circumstances. As for the question, this is a matter for the Canadian Transport Commission. The report has not yet reached my desk, but I will be glad to make inquiries and to provide an answer as fast as I can.

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HOUSING

HAMILTON—AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR LOW-INCOME HOMES

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio in charge of housing. I gave him notice of the question last week. It concerns the \$18 million that was promised to Hamilton and district. I believe there has been some indication that the amount has now been reduced to \$12 million, the balance having been promised to other parts of the country. Has the minister a statement for me in this regard?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I regret that perhaps due to my absence last week on official duties this question was not brought to my notice. I will correct that situation forthwith and give an answer to the hon. gentleman as soon as possible.

Mr. Alexander: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would hope that the minister would give this matter his immediate attention because it is causing some problems in the city of Hamilton and district.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

INVESTIGATION OF SHOOTING OF YOUTH NEAR
SASKATOON

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. In view of the fact that a 15-year-old youth was shot to death near Saskatoon last week by an officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, can the minister say whether his department is conducting an investigation into the incident?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Solicitor General supplementary to that asked by the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville. When the Solicitor General is investigating the incident referred to by the hon. member for Yorkton-