

Bill C-19

● (1410)

[English]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYSPROPOSED PAYMENT OF SUBSIDIES TO ENSURE CONTINUED
OPERATION IN NEWFOUNDLAND—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. John Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the statement made today by Dr. R. A. Bandeen of the CNR in St. John's, Newfoundland, that the company's railway operations in that province are expected to operate on the same basis as the rest of the company's rail business, with capital investment being financed on a commercial basis; that he could see no part of the Newfoundland rail system as capable of being operated on a commercial basis if rate levels are kept on the same basis as those on the mainland, and that the only way the railway could be expected to continue to run in Newfoundland was on the basis of combined subsidies and revenue, I move, seconded by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath):

That the Government of Canada ensure continued operation and improvement of the CN's rail services in Newfoundland through subsidies as necessary and that a Royal Commission not be appointed to study all aspects of transportation in Newfoundland as suggested by Mr. Bandeen unless assurance is given by the Government of Canada that:

1. there be no lay-offs in the interim.
2. that there be no change in the rail services offered nor in the quality of such services.
3. that the Government of Canada continue to act on matters such as financing of DREE roads and assistance for an improved Trans-Canada Highway and other transportation measures until such a Royal Commission reports.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House.

Some hon. Members: No!

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GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES RESTRAINT ACTPROPOSAL THAT SECTION FIFTEEN BE RECONSIDERED—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Mike Landers (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the terms of Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that the unit train concept is not in place, and in view of the fact that a filibuster is preventing my government from legislating expeditiously, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Breau):

That this House agree to reconsider section 15 of Bill C-19—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Landers:

—until we can give birth to the unit train concept.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Speaker: Order. The provisions of Standing Order 43 require unanimous consent for the presentation of such a motion. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA LIMITEDNAME OF AGENT FOR ARGENTINIAN SALE—POSSIBILITY OF
INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS OF BRIBERY

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It is part of a continuing saga with respect to those still undetermined agents acting on behalf of the AECL. In the light of the revelation yesterday that the \$2.4 million paid out by AECL was deposited not in a Lichtenstein bank account but in a bank in Lugano, Switzerland, on behalf of the International General Trading Establishment of which there seems to be no record in that country. Has the minister determined whether or not such a company does exist, and if so, whether it has received this money, in which case has he ascertained whether this is the final agent acting on behalf of AECL in the Argentinian deal? Also, has he inquired with respect to the serious allegations which have been put forward in the Argentinian press concerning bribes to two former cabinet ministers?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I can assure the hon. member that I am just as anxious as he is, or as anyone else in the House, to get to the bottom of this thing. Atomic Energy of Canada Limited wrote to its partner on my instructions to find out the name of the agent and to clarify the details of the arrangement. That request for information was conveyed by them over the telephone and by letter. I am informed that the Italian partner is awaiting the letter before replying. I have no further information at the present time.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Can the minister tell the House why it is that he and AECL would not have readily available the name of the final agent acting for them in this important project, particularly when one considers the millions of dollars presently being lost to Canada in connection with this transaction?

Mr. Gillespie: Those explanations have been given before, both in the House and in the committee. They deal with the arrangements entered into between AECL, I am informed, and their Italian partner.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that reports in the last few days from Buenos Aires indicate that two former cabinet ministers may in fact have received Canadian public funds in