

forbid? We do not want a Mississauga or Sundridge affair in our area.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, the hon. member spoke to me about this subject a few days ago. I provided him with a number of scenarios with regard to what happens in the case of transportation accidents involving dangerous goods. At the time I told him the scenario varies a great deal depending on where the accident takes place, what kind of dangerous goods are involved, whether or not it is on a siding or a main line, etc. I agree with the hon. member that these scenarios are rather complex. Efforts are being made now through the regulations provided in Bill C-18, which was passed in the House about a year ago, to streamline these methodologies.

At the last meeting of the ministers of transportation I echoed the worries which the hon. member has. The provincial ministers of transportation and myself agreed that a maximum effort should be made toward simplifying these procedures. At the next meeting of the ministers of transportation I will bring forward ideas to that effect.

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RAILWAYS

STATEMENT ISSUED BY EDMONTON AREA MEMBERS OF
PARLIAMENT

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton South): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Is he aware of the publication on Friday last of a statement signed by eight members of Parliament from the greater Edmonton area who fully endorse the protests made by the city administration of Edmonton and the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce who are protesting the cancellation of transcontinental service west from Edmonton to Vancouver and east from Edmonton to Winnipeg? Has the minister read this statement and can he give a commitment to the House that before any such cancellations are imposed on the people of Edmonton public hearings will be held in that city?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, the answer to the first question is yes. The answer to the second question is no.

Mr. Roche: The attitude of the minister is rather cavalier considering the gravity of the situation which will have a tremendous economic impact on a trading area in which there are more than one million citizens in the fastest growing area in Canada.

TELEGRAM SENT BY EDMONTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton South): Madam Speaker, has the minister received and read a telegram circulated by Mr. Eric Geddes, the president of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, in which he says, in part, that this forthcoming planned cancellation "would greatly increase the feeling of

alienation in western Canada."? Will the minister comment on the repercussions which are likely to occur from the point of view of national unity and transcontinental service if such cuts are imposed unilaterally by the government?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, the hon. member made sure that I would receive a copy of the telegram. If I recall correctly he sent me a copy of it on Friday, which was when I read it. I have had a number of anticipatory protests from the Edmonton area to the same effect. I can only say that if what the hon. member and others fear is done, of course I will have to justify that action extensively.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

MINISTER'S DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES AGENCY

Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Madam Speaker, last week the Minister of the Environment met with the chief of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Will the minister inform the House about the discussions he had and about what may be ahead of us in the near future?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, the discussions I had with the head of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Miss Gorsuch, a week ago were successful in terms of their limited objective, which was to explain as forcefully as possible to the American administration our concern about possible proposed amendments to the American clean air act, and our concern that the negotiations with the United States for a trans-boundary air quality agreement be proceeded with as vigorously as possible. Within that context I can assure the hon. member that our discussions, which I think were vigorous, left no doubt in the minds of the officials of the American administration what the position of Canada was.

I must say to the hon. gentleman that we expect negotiations to proceed. I want to be neither optimistic nor pessimistic about the outcome of those negotiations. I think that the discussions will be difficult ones; but I believe that in the end the reasonableness of our position will lead to the conclusion of some satisfactory arrangement with the United States.

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CORPORATE AFFAIRS

CONDUCT INTO HEARING ON PRICING PRACTICES OF OIL
COMPANIES

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, who may know that on July 27, two weeks from now, the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission will be holding a pre-hearing meeting to discuss the rules of the game in the