

with the \$322 million expansion project in the Rockies unless the federal government repudiates its statutory guarantee on freight rates to western farmers by renegeing on the Crowsnest pass agreement. May I remind the minister that the Canadian Pacific Railway corporation—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Hovdebo:—made \$158 million more last year than the year before.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Hovdebo: Would the Minister of Transport indicate what action he intends to take in the face of such crude corporate blackmail in determining the transportation policy of the Government of Canada?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, one of my dedicated assistants was in touch with the CPR this morning, and I am somewhat amused by the result of that call as the CP rail authorities maintain that they have been misquoted on this subject. So, for a change it is interesting to see that businessmen can also be misquoted. This is not what they meant to say.

● (1440)

I presume that changes to the Crowsnest Pass might help the railway in making this project at the Beaver tunnel a viable one. But I presume that it has something to do with capital cost allowances also. Anyway, I am meeting with the president on May 29 and will explore that to the fullest extent.

Mr. Hovdebo: Madam Speaker, in view of the possibility of this freeze on the mountain expansion project, and in view of the fact that the Hall report has not been instituted as yet, would the minister assure this House that the Hall report on Crowsnest Pass rates will be implemented, to ensure that this kind of blackmail cannot take place?

Mr. Pepin: Madam Speaker, the Crowsnest Pass is a problem which has been with us since 1897.

An hon. Member: The problem is you guys.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Pepin: It became statutory in 1925. My information, substantiated by some conversations I have had, is that the mood of western Canada is changing with respect to the Crowsnest.

An hon. Member: It is not.

Mr. Pepin: I am planning now to get fully involved in the subject, to consult extensively in the coming weeks and devise a general strategy to cope with this particular issue.

Oral Questions

ENERGY

SECURITY OF SUPPLY OF FEEDSTOCK FOR PETROSAR AND SUNCOR

Hon. Bud Cullen (Sarnia): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Given the fact that the Alberta government has been less than happy with the fact that Petrosar produces residual fuel as a byproduct of its operation, and also Suncor and other operations in eastern Canada, given the pressure that has been brought to bear by the federal government requiring these companies to do something about this particular problem, and given the fact that Petrosar and Suncor announced today an expenditure of some \$500 million to upgrade their facilities, will the minister now be able to get from the Alberta government a commitment giving these operations security of supply of feedstock?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, first of all I should like to thank the officials of the two refineries concerned in Sarnia and also Ultramar in St. Romuald, near Quebec City, for their co-operation with the government when we made very strong representations to them encouraging them to upgrade the oil that was going through the refineries, so as to have a much more efficient use of oil in our energy strategy.

As far as the question raised by the hon. member is concerned, I should like to advise him that I have discussed this matter twice already with my colleague from Alberta, and that the Alberta government welcomed the developments I have announced today. Also, I want to assure the hon. member that I have raised with the minister for Alberta the question of the supply to Petrosar in particular, and I was assured again at my meeting early this week that there will be no discrimination against Petrosar.

If Petrosar cannot get supply directly, it can be assured at least that there will be nothing to prevent any person or company supplied with oil by Alberta from reselling to Petrosar. So there is an assurance that no measures will be taken to discriminate against Petrosar in its supply.

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EMPLOYMENT

NUMBER OF JOBS TO BE CREATED FOR WOMEN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND NATIVES

Mr. Walter McLean (Waterloo): Madam Speaker, I am my party's spokesperson on matters relevant to the status of women.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McLean: But I want to assure the House that my concerns are broader than that.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!