

Oral Questions

responsible for marine transport in this country. It concerns information that CN Marine is planning a move from Moncton to Halifax. I am also informed by my colleague, the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate, that CN Marine made a commitment in April, 1978, to move parts of its administration, at least—if not all—to St. John's, Newfoundland.

I know that the minister is as concerned about this matter as I am, and would he tell the House if he has any information with regard to this corporate insensitivity by CN Marine with regard to the people and the economy of Atlantic Canada?

Hon. J. Robert Howie (Minister of State, Transport): Mr. Speaker, the headquarters of CN Marine are in Moncton, as they have been for a number of years, and there is no foreseeable move. CN Marine has a number of sectional offices to allow for more effective management of its responsibilities. The only recently proposed change will result in the establishment of a legal insurance section in Halifax, which requires the transfer of seven employees from Moncton. The legal department is in Halifax and the claims department is in Moncton. When the seven people in the claims department were hired, it was made known to them that they would go to the legal department in Halifax for a more functional operation.

● (1200)

The operational base for the Newfoundland coastal services and the dockyard is St. John's, and has been for some time and no proposed changes in the structure or numbers of employees have been modified. I think this probably answers the hon. member's question.

Mr. McCauley: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the minister if it is a fact that the president of CNR, Mr. Bandeen, made a commitment in a standing committee meeting of the House in April, 1978, that part of the administration, if not all, would move to St. John's, Newfoundland; and is it not a fact that further intended moves from Moncton to Halifax were stymied by the minister's intervention?

Mr. Howie: Mr. Speaker, I had representations from the hon. member and I heard rumours of the total move of CN Marine from Moncton to Halifax. I investigated and was assured that CN Marine was not planning on moving. As I say, they have sectional offices and there will from time to time be transfers of employees. I am not aware of the Bandeen statement because I was not at that particular committee meeting.

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URBAN AFFAIRS**MEASURES TO PROVIDE JOBS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the serious slowdown in construction in metropolitan Toronto, with many hundreds of

[Mr. McCauley.]

people likely to lose their jobs and their homes, is the government prepared now to implement the plan prepared by the previous government, in consultation with metro Toronto and the province of Ontario, to free-up federal land and give financial assistance in order to provide an Ontario congress centre which would provide 2,500 construction jobs immediately, with the potential 10,000 jobs in the hospitality industry, as well as making a significant contribution to reducing the trade and tourism deficit?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for that question. It is a matter that is under very active review by the government. I would hope we would be making an announcement quite soon.

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[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT**INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER AGREES WITH COSSETTE REPORT ON QUEBEC LONGSHOREMEN**

Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency): Mr. Speaker, my question is for either the Minister of Transport or his colleague the Minister of State for Transport. In view of the fact that the Cossette report recommends the elimination of one-third of the 365 jobs for the longshoremen in Quebec harbour, could the minister indicate whether he agrees with this recommendation and what action the government will take to protect the jobs of these workers?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the report, but it is a matter that will be discussed with my colleague, the Minister of Labour. I think that is the spirit of the motion presented by the hon. member to the House earlier today under Standing Order 43.

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[Translation]

LABOUR CONDITIONS**INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT FAVOURS ESTABLISHMENT OF FORESTRY TERMINAL AT QUEBEC HARBOUR**

Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency): Could the minister indicate to the House whether the government will encourage the establishment of a forestry terminal in Quebec harbour to make sure that all longshoremen in this port can keep their jobs?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Certainly, Mr. Speaker, we will consider any move or any proposal that would ensure the continuance of jobs. That will be something I will discuss with my colleague, the Minister of Labour.