

S.O. 21

**REGULATORY REFORM**

## PUBLICATION OF AGENDA

**Mr. Jim Peterson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Economic Development and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Madam Speaker, I rise with what I can only imagine to be the pride of a new mother. Yesterday the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Gray) brought forth the Regulatory Agenda. The Regulatory Agenda is perhaps the single most important recommendation of the task force on regulatory reform. It provides notice of the regulatory initiatives of ten regulatory Departments and four regulatory agencies. It will be published twice a year, in May and November. It gives notice in a compact, accessible form to the private sector—business, labour, consumers and environmentalists—of pending Government initiatives. It outlines the problem, possible actions the Government might take, and, most important, the name, address and phone number of the responsible contact in Government.

The Agenda is an early warning system, provided through publication in *The Canada Gazette* of the Agenda. It is the key to better consultation and will lead to more cost effective regulations responding to the real needs of the private sector. It will utilize private sector knowledge and know-how. As one person said, the Regulatory Agenda is the most significant development in Government tracking since *Hansard*. The gestation period has been long. It has been worth it.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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**ENERGY**

## ACCELERATED OIL SANDS DEVELOPMENT ADVOCATED

**Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca):** Madam Speaker, it is generally acknowledged that the oil reserves contained in the Athabasca tar sands exceed those of the Middle East. I submit to this House that an accelerated program of oil sands development is essential to Canada's goal of self-sufficiency in oil, certainly by 1990 or by 1995. Canada should try to offset the risk of insecure foreign oil supplies and lessen the drain on its currency that results from foreign oil purchases.

Surely there should be serious consideration of encouragement to develop further the oil sands at Syncrude and Cold Lake, which are known to exist and to be producible. Royalty reductions and tax considerations help, but it is the enormous downside risk, if crude prices plunge, that requires special attention.

Perhaps one answer to foster these job-creating, energy security investments would be a maximum and minimum return on investment, with enough return on the upside to encourage real efficiencies, or there would, instead, be a guaranteed crude price during pay-out of investment.

Syncrude Canada produced about 7 per cent of Canada's domestic oil in 1982, and Syncrude's payments to Governments for PGRT and royalties are estimated to be about \$450 million in 1983.

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

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● (1410)

**RAILWAYS**

## CROWNEST PASS RATE—RATIO OF SUPPORT IN FAVOUR OF RETENTION

**Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert):** Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) for his prompt attention to my written question and I would also like to draw to his attention the answer which his office has provided. I had asked for the number of signatures the Minister had received supporting a change in the Crow rate. The answer given by his office was 69. I had also asked for the number of signatures the Minister had received supporting retention of the Crow rate. The answer given by his office was 38,713. For every person supporting Crow rate change, Madam Speaker, there are 561 people supporting Crow rate retention.

The Minister should drop the notion that opposition to Crow change is a position held only by the New Democratic Party and the National Farmers' Union. The number of Crow retention signatures he has received is three times the membership of the National Farmers' Union. The Minister should now realize that many of the groups with which he is negotiating do not represent the strongly held views of farmers and prairie communities. He should admit that his strategies of corporate consultation and negotiation have placed him in his present untenable position.

Finally, the Minister must enter into discussions on railway upgrading which include Crow retention as a serious alternative to the present Bill. He should split Bill C-155 so that the upgrading of railways can proceed immediately. For the Minister to continue along his present course is to foster western alienation, western separatism, and probably civil disobedience.

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**TERRY FOX**

## TRIBUTE TO FILM OF LIFE STORY

**Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, last weekend I wanted to take my seven year old son, Alex, to see the movie *The Return of the Jedi* but the line-ups proved impossible. Somewhat disappointed, we decided to go to see *The Terry Fox Story* instead, and we had no trouble getting in because the theatre was more or less empty.

Somewhat to my surprise, Madam Speaker, I was really impressed with this movie, and I am pretty severe critic. This