

*Oral Questions*

## DETERMINATION OF PRIORITIES

**Mr. Gilles Grondin (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is also directed to the President of the Treasury Board. Will the projects that are submitted, or the projects or studies that are on the table now, be used to determine the priorities in each riding, and will this be done from the office of the President of the Treasury Board or of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, or can those projects or priorities in the ridings be determined by management boards that could be set up to manage the Laprade Fund?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is speculating on how the Laprade Fund will be spent. We as a Government would prefer to see the people in the various regions across this country contribute to a very large extent to our economic development, and the Laprade Fund will be used along those lines. We will try to get the people in the region actively involved, by having people from each riding help determine priorities according to the general criteria for awarding monies from this Fund.

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[English]

## VIA RAIL

## SERVICE IN WINDSOR-LONDON-TORONTO CORRIDOR

**Mr. Terry Clifford (London—Middlesex):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. The Windsor-London-Toronto corridor is one of the most highly travelled corridors in the VIA Rail system. In light of recent service cut-backs made without any consultation, together with a new commitment to improve this national service, will the Minister relate to the House how residents of southwestern Ontario, particularly London—Middlesex, can gain assurance that changes in service policy are not implemented without their input, and will he assure those patrons that they will in fact be granted an opportunity to be heard?

● (1500)

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, with the additional funds we are now providing for VIA Rail we hope passenger comfort and equipment reliability will improve. I agree with the Hon. Member that there needs to be greater consultation between VIA Rail and those it serves. I believe in his area a consultative committee is going to be set up by VIA. That will be in addition to the North Main line consultative committee on which London is represented. A community consultative committee is going to be set up in London itself to discuss not only scheduling but all other VIA related issues. That is a course I hope VIA will continue to pursue in response to the vigorous representations of the Hon. Member.

[Translation]

## THE CONSTITUTION

## ABORIGINAL PEOPLES' RIGHTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister who received last week an invitation from the leaders of aboriginal organizations to meet with them here in Ottawa during this week's conference to discuss the implications of the Meech Lake accord over which they entertain serious and legitimate concerns.

Is the Prime Minister prepared to meet with the leaders of the main aboriginal organizations at the earliest opportunity to set up a negotiation program to complete the Canadian Confederation by including the aboriginal peoples' right to self-government?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for this question. Indeed, on four occasions, through constitutional conferences on aboriginal issues, we attempted to reintegrate, to give native peoples the full benefit of Canada's constitutional provisions.

Again recently, despite our best efforts, we as a nation failed in this latest attempt. I pointed out at the time, and again here in the House, that in spite of that failure—my friend would know that the provinces must co-operate if we are to succeed—at the appropriate time I would of course be prepared to re-open the case and make a new attempt to propose a fair integration process to the native peoples with respect to the Canadian Constitution.

I remain available and interested in seeing this process through to its successful completion.

[English]

## REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING OF NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure all Canadians appreciate the Prime Minister's commitment. What concrete measures will he take to ensure that a schedule is set up for negotiations to include aboriginal self-government rights in the Constitution, and will he raise this matter with the Premiers at the next meeting?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker—

**Ms. Copps:** Wake up!

**Mr. Mulroney:** It is nice to see her grace from Hamilton East back in her seat. When we are trying to discuss something of value to the aboriginal peoples all we get is heckling from the Liberal Party.

In regard to the very important question raised by my hon. friend, I think he will agree that the most important aspect in this kind of process is to ensure a reasonable chance of success. We have had four constitutional conferences on this question so far without success. As I have already indicated, it is