

## CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

## RETIRED EMPLOYEES' PENSIONS—ACTION TO IMPLEMENT INCREASE RECOMMENDED BY HOUSE

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Has he as yet received assurances from Canadian National Railways that the pensions of retired CNR employees will be increased along the lines recommended by this House?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I have already held discussions with the CNR on this subject in order to get information as to what their response was to the report of the standing committee as concurred in by the House. I think I can say at this time that there is sympathetic response. I have asked for the specifics of what the company is anticipating it will do, and I should have this information on Monday or Tuesday of next week.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, in addition to seeking information is the minister indicating to the CNR that it would be highly desirable to act on this matter soon?

**Mr. Jamieson:** Mr. Speaker, I have answered this question in various ways and on numerous occasions. To repeat, I of course take the historic position that it is not my role in any sense to influence the decision of the CNR in these matters in a formal way. But I would hope the hon. member would recognize that I am at least as charitable and responsive to the needs of pensioners as he is, and I have found my own ways of showing this.

**Mr. Lewis:** How good an advocate are you?

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** Mr. Speaker, I think this could be a supplementary question. Will the minister report on discussions with another Crown corporation, Air Canada, as to the possible abatement of lay-offs, particularly in areas like Saint John and Yarmouth?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that is hardly a supplementary question. I believe the hon. member for Winnipeg North has a supplementary to the original question.

[Later:]

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Transport. As the question of pensions is a prime item in negotiations with the CNR on the part of the non-operating railway unions, will he discuss with the CNR the necessity of reaching an agreement on this matter in order to avoid the possibility of a strike which would have very serious effects on the whole economy of the country?

**Mr. Jamieson:** As I have indicated previously, this is one of the complicating factors with regard to dealing with these people who are already on pension, because a

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

part of the issue is now a matter for collective bargaining. I am sure the hon. member would be among the first to agree that it would be highly inappropriate for me to inject myself into the bargaining process or for us to try to do the negotiating here in parliament. So I have tried to separate the two issues and deal with those already on pension as a somewhat separate issue from the one that is now a source or basis for collective bargaining.

## REDUCTION OF PASSENGER SERVICE IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

**Mr. Gaétan-J. Serré (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, my question has to do with Canadian National Railways service and is directed to the Minister of Transport. Following strong representations by northern Ontario Members of Parliament requesting that the transport committee hold public hearings in northern Ontario in order to assess the implications of the CNR's decision to abandon the services of trains Nos. 7 and 8 between Ottawa and Winnipeg effective January 31, can the minister advise whether the Canadian Transport Commission is in a position to hold such hearings or is prepared to force the CNR to maintain proper services?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This is not a supplementary question. The hon. member is asking a related question and he will be given an opportunity to ask it in a moment.

[Later:]

**Mr. Serré:** Mr. Speaker, may I repeat the question I asked awhile ago. Has the Minister of Transport any further report on the developments regarding passenger service in northern Ontario?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I am advised that the Canadian Transport Commission has, I believe as of this morning—if the order has not been issued it will be issued some time today—ordered Canadian National Railways to institute dayliner service between Capreol and Nakina in northern Ontario. The dayliner service will have to be introduced under this order simultaneously with the changes affecting the two trains, Nos. 7 and 8, which I believe will happen within a matter of days.

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** I wonder whether the minister can assure the House that northern Ontario will have much better service when they lose these trains than was the case in Newfoundland?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

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[Translation]

## AIR TRANSPORT

## SUGGESTION THAT PASSENGERS CARRY IDENTITY CARDS

**Mr. Roland Godin (Portheuf):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Transport.