

## Oral Questions

[English]

## TRANSPORT

## SUGGESTED EXPEDITING OF APPROVAL OF GRADE SEPARATION PROJECTS AND INQUIRY INTO REASONS FOR DELAYS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity pursuant to Standing Order 43. In view of the tragic accident at a railroad crossing in Toronto last Friday causing eight deaths and dozens of injuries, partially as a result of the delay by the Canadian Transport Commission in approving applications by the Toronto metro roads commission to proceed with grade separations, I move, seconded by the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens):

That this House instruct the Minister of Transport to take all necessary steps to have the Canadian Transport Commission make immediate decisions on all pending applications relating to grade separation projects, and that he look into the reason for delays in this and other applications and report to this House his findings.

**Mr. Speaker:** The motion cannot be debated without the unanimous consent of the House.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR PORTER ON CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS—POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I should like to ask the Prime Minister about the statement made by Ambassador Porter suggesting that our relationships with the United States have deteriorated during the past two years and an atmosphere of suspicion, if not of hostility, is developing in important American quarters. Does this come to the Prime Minister as a surprise, or does the information that the government has been receiving from our own diplomatic service confirm the views expressed by Ambassador Porter?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it comes to me as a surprise both as to the substance and as to the form. I have not seen the text of Ambassador Porter's statement and therefore I should not like to make any final comments on it, but I must say I am surprised that an experienced diplomat like Mr. Porter would not find other channels for expressing views if he thinks they are right.

**Mr. Cossitt:** You are anti-American, that is what is wrong with you.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Therefore, I am surprised about the form, and I repeat that I have not seen the text of Ambassador Porter's statement. I hope I will be seeing it fairly soon.

[Mr. Speaker.]

On the substance, of course, we do know there are problems being solved between our countries, and that there have been, will be and are various forms of irritants that we are always working to overcome. On the over-all substance, I think the most fair answer is to say I have seen President Ford three times during the past year and talked at great length with him at those meetings and at other times on the telephone. Secretary Kissinger was here a very short while ago, and made private and public statements to the effect that our relations were very good. I am, I confess, somewhat surprised at the tone of the remarks, as reported, of Ambassador Porter, and I must say they do not correspond to what either the President or Secretary Kissinger have been telling me.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure we can all agree about the importance of the question. My question really was basically whether the government of Canada would advise us of the tenor of the advice or information the government of Canada has been receiving from our own diplomatic services in the United States, and does it confirm or refute positively, one way or other, the opinions expressed by the ambassador? If the Prime Minister needs to look into this matter, does he intend, either himself or through the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to make inquiries of our diplomatic people in the United States in order to confirm or otherwise the impression the Prime Minister now has about relations?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I thought I had answered that in my reply. If I can be more precise, let me say I did talk to Ambassador Warren last week, our ambassador in Washington, about other matters and this type of remark did not come up. I repeat that Ambassador Porter's remarks do not in any way reflect what I have learned from President Ford or Secretary Kissinger or from our own ambassador. This does not mean there are not difficulties which are arising all the time, solutions to which we are working on and attempting to find. The House knows that ever since the two countries have existed there has been a constant series of problems which have been discussed and solved, and that to me is the nature of our relations, not the kind of relations that Ambassador Porter is reported to have stated.

## REASON FOR FAILURE TO RESPOND TO INVITATION OF UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE TO HAVE REPRESENTATIVES EXPLAIN FOREIGN INVESTMENT LEGISLATION

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, since the Prime Minister referred to the views he has received from President Ford and Secretary Kissinger he may be aware of the fact that Ambassador Porter referred as much to the media as to other aspects of government, particularly Congress. I am wondering whether the Prime Minister is aware of the fact that the Joint Economic Sub-Committee on Inter-American Affairs of the two Houses is meeting tomorrow and Wednesday basically to study our foreign investment review legislation, and whether or not he is aware that the staff have asked for representations from our government and have so far been refused, even though there are some prominent Canadian businessmen who will be appearing over the next few days? Will the Prime