

Oral Questions

what so as not to have further obvious contradictions within the government?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will allow the minister to reply to the question briefly, but the hon. member knows that a question asked in those terms is irregular. Hon. members should be able to ask questions without making arguments or speeches.

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the ultimate objective of Bill C-7 is to serve the interests of individual Canadians. It is part of our policy, if parliament decides that a bill like that to be proposed by the Minister of National Health and Welfare should be adopted, that on behalf of the Canadian people we have taken a measure consistent with the interests of individual Canadians.

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Because of the fact that about three or four weeks ago the minister promised legislation regarding the World Football League within two weeks, can the minister assure the House that we can expect the legislation to be introduced next week, or has the cabinet not agreed on the matter yet?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, in my original statement on this subject I said that in fact I hoped it would come about in the following two or three weeks, but I had clearly indicated that delays were possible. One of these has been caused by the preparation of the important legislation introduced today concerning the Canada Pension Plan, which will be of benefit to all Canadians. I also mentioned that the bill would be introduced before the Easter recess and I am confident that that will be sometime next week.

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[English]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

HALIFAX AND DARTMOUTH—INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF METROPOLITAN AREA GROWTH INCENTIVES CORPORATION—DISCUSSION WITH PROVINCE

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. I ask it against the background of concern about the undue delay in the appointment of a chairman of the Metropolitan Area Growth Incentives Corporation in the metropolitan area of Halifax. Has there been any communication with the province of Nova Scotia, particularly in light of the fact they now have Mr. Scott McNutt to assume that position? If there has been some communication, is the minister now in a position to indicate when that job will be filled?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, there has not been any communication in recent weeks. The government of Nova Scotia was otherwise engaged—and successfully engaged.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Jelinek.]

Mr. Jamieson: During that time there was no further correspondence and there has not been anything since Tuesday.

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GRAIN

REQUEST THAT RAILWAYS OPEN SNOWBOUND BRANCH LINES AND MOVE GRAIN IN LIGHT OF SASKATCHEWAN HIGHWAY LOAD RESTRICTIONS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. In light of the announcement he made recently regarding emergency movement of grain and the closure of several railway branch lines, with farmers being asked to haul grain to main or secondary main lines, and in view of the fact that, if they have not already done so, within the next few days the provincial government of Saskatchewan and municipalities in that province will be imposing road bans which will effectively prevent farmers from hauling grain to alternative delivery points, will the minister now call on the railways to open the closed branch lines and empty the elevators which are full of grain?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, of course spring conditions will affect the highway system and the grid roads in the prairie region just as they do rail lines, and the farmers will have to haul grain consistent with whatever provincial and municipal rules are in place. We hope there will be a quick response by the province and the municipalities to this situation and that the bans will be as limited as is necessary to preserve the roads.

The fact is that there are large quantities of grain available on the main lines that will be served by trains, and it would not particularly be to the advantage of farmers to delay the hauling of that grain by trying to send trains on to lines that are impassable, or where it would simply require too much locomotive power to plow them. We will therefore continue to offer farmers the opportunity, whenever conditions permit them to do so, to deliver to lines that are open.

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AIR TRANSPORT

CONDITION OF VOR BEACON AT FROBISHER BAY AIRPORT

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Will the minister confirm that the VOR beacon at Frobisher Bay, the one which caused an unfortunate crash two months ago, is still on test, just as it has been on test for over two years?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I shall have to inquire and report to the hon. gentleman.