

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**DISCONTINUANCE OF DINING CAR SERVICE,
OTTAWA-MONTREAL**

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): My question is addressed to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport. In view of the importance of the matter, is the department making any investigation in connection with the discontinuance of dining car service on trains 30 and 31 running between Ottawa and Montreal, which are heavily patronized?

Mr. Speaker: My recollection is that this question was asked a few days ago. I do not recall whether it was answered, but I observe that the Parliamentary Secretary has taken notice of the question.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVINCES ON WHITE PAPER
PROPOSALS—INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): During the question period last Friday the Acting Prime Minister referred to a meeting between representatives of the provinces and the federal government in connection with unemployment insurance and the proposed amendments to the Act. The answer left some doubt in my mind. I should like to ask the Minister of Labour whether he is now meeting with his provincial counterparts concerning the white paper proposals or whether he is at the stage of discussing the draft legislation?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): I would not presume to discuss the draft legislation with the provinces, but we are discussing certain proposals which are contained in the white paper.

Mr. Alexander: In view of the urgency of the unemployment crisis, can the minister tell us whether he has yet received answers from all the provinces? Is it still the minister's intention to bring this legislation in by July, 1971, or is he updating his timetable in an attempt to deal with the very harsh unemployment situation?

Mr. Mackasey: We are now running ahead of schedule in connection with the timetable outlined for the preparation of the draft bill, and I see no particular reason why we should not meet the target date of July 1, 1971.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MacLean: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day are called may I ask the leader of the House whether there is to be any deviation from the program fixed for today? Is there any change in business since it was last announced? More specifically, what items are we to consider after completion of the discussion on the textiles bill?

Textile and Clothing Board Act

Mr. MacEachen: I think that at the end of the debate on the textiles bill, if it were finished, we would deal with the crop insurance legislation. If that were cleared I do not think I would call the government organization bill—I think that would be the first item tomorrow. I would consult with hon. members opposite as to what we should consider for the remaining time today, if there were any.

● (3:00 p.m.)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**TEXTILE AND CLOTHING BOARD ACT****ESTABLISHMENT, INQUIRIES, REPORTS AND ASSISTANCE
BENEFITS FOR WORKERS**

The House resumed, from Friday, January 22, consideration of the motion of Mr. Pepin that Bill C-215, to establish the Textile and Clothing Board and to make certain amendments to other acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee of Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure I am next on the list of speakers which was drawn up the other day, but I do have a few comments to make on this textile bill. I assume this is a reasonable time at which to make them.

I cannot help feeling that the government's bill to rationalize the textile industry has some good points in it. As I see it, the long term outlook for the textile industry would be better if those engaged in it were in a position to produce goods at prices which consumers were willing to pay; goods which consumers needed and wished to purchase. If we are to produce any goods in Canada they have to be produced in competition with products of the same type manufactured elsewhere. This measure provides for a reasonable degree of rationalization in the textile industry and as such we should be willing to support it. I am aware there are some manufacturers, some individuals, who will be penalized. Some people will lose their jobs and it will be awkward for them. But if we are to have a healthy industry of any kind in Canada we are bound, as I say, to produce goods and services of a type which customers will recognize as being useful, and to put them on sale at prices they are willing to pay.

I should like to make a few comments with regard to the clothing section of the textile industry. For too long, it seems to me, we have tried to shore up this industry with subsidies and so on. We have sought to produce goods—I am thinking of cotton goods—in competition with Britain and India, countries with much greater experience than ours in producing goods of this type. I have suggested before, and I suggest to the minister now, that we should concentrate on products we need in Canada. I am thinking primarily about winter wear; I am not saying we should not produce other things. Let us