

ment to which the hon. member referred, the five governments agreed to put before the CTC a study and examination of rail passenger service and the economies of the alternatives available. That study was placed before the CTC for its consideration.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN PACIFIC

PROPOSED ABANDONMENT OF HULL TO MANIWAKI SERVICE— GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Thomas H. Lefebvre (Pontiac): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport about the request of CP Rail, which has announced recently that it would like to abandon service between Hull and Maniwaki.

[English]

Is the minister aware of this CP rail project and the negative results it would have on the Gatineau Valley, if allowed? Also, would he delegate a personal representative to the meeting, scheduled for next Tuesday, so that those interested in preventing the closure will obtain all the information they need to make their protest effective at the public hearings which will be held?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to do so. I should say immediately that, unfortunately, the legislation under which we operate makes it necessary for applications for abandonment to be made in order that the CTC may consider if granting a subsidy to continue the service is the proper course of action. Even if the railway hopes to get a subsidy to continue the service, it has no alternative except to apply for abandonment. This question has been of great concern in areas where such procedure has been followed and I look forward to the opportunity of changing the wording of the statute, so that the seeking of assistance and support may be an alternative to the application for abandonment. Certainly, this has been of concern in the west, as well, in connection with branch lines.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

POSSIBILITY MR. GOYER WILL TESTIFY BEFORE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Mr. Stuart Leggett (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Yesterday the former Solicitor General, the present Minister of Supply and Services, assured the House that he would fully co-operate with the MacDonald commission. Can the Solicitor General say if the previous Solicitor General informed him of his willingness to testify in public concerning the conflict between former Commissioner Higgitt and himself relating to the events of November 7. Former Commissioner Higgitt's words were, "I would be surprised if he was not informed," whereas the former Solicitor General assures the House he was not informed. That

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is our information. There is an apparent conflict which I am sure the former Solicitor General and the present Solicitor General wish to resolve in public. The hon. member for Peace River suggested the Canadian public wants to be satisfied on the issue. Can the Solicitor General say if that evidence will be heard in public, if the commission inquires into that specific event?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member may recall, the Minister of Supply and Services yesterday assured the House he would co-operate fully with the commission and appear before it, if it asks him to do so. As to whether that appearance will take place in a public hearing, that matter must be determined by the commission, and I believe it is proper for the commission to determine it.

Mr. Leggett: Mr. Speaker, I presume the Solicitor General can give us his commitment not to request that particular session to be held in camera. My supplementary concerns some information I gave the Solicitor General privately. It concerns the admission of the Five Dragons to Canada. Has the Solicitor General been able to determine if the RCMP liaison officer in Hong Kong received information from Hong Kong authorities concerning the Five Dragons, in particular Mr. Lui Lock of the Five Dragons? If so, was that information passed on to immigration authorities before those five men were admitted to Canada?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Where is the connection? How is that a supplementary?

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, I should like the hon. member—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Even with the best of goodwill I have difficulty relating the hon. member's question to his previous question. I do not think it is a supplementary.

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HEALTH

HYPERLIPEMIA—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ASSESS MEANS OF CONTROL

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare arises from his recent address in Vancouver to the public health association. I always read the minister's speeches with care and interest, and that speech was about the startling and galloping increase in the incidence of heart attacks at all ages, particularly younger age groups. We have seen a 250 per cent increase in males, 25 to 44, and a 150 per cent increase in women. Since the minister is concerned about all the attendant suffering, about the deaths, disabilities, loss of earning power and sorrow, I ask, why did the minister not mention that well recognized groups of people are suffering from hyperlipemia, which may be hereditary, or from allied diseases, and how their disease is to be treated?