

might add, particularly in the corridor from Vancouver to Edmonton and to Calgary.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 55 and 56.

[Text]

CLAIM FOR COSTS

Question No. 55—**Mr. Angus:**

For the most recent year available, what amounts of money were Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways allowed to claim as constant costs under the Western Grain Transportation Act?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport): Under subsection 34 (1) of the WTGA, the level of contribution to constant costs is defined as 20 per cent of volume-related variable costs.

In calculating the 1988/89 rate scale, volume-related variable costs were \$740.4 million and therefore, the amount used for constant costs was \$148.1 million. However, since these figures are used only to calculate the rate scale, the amount allowable for constant costs is a function of the actual traffic that moved. In crop year 1987/88, the latest year for which actual traffic data is available the contribution to constant costs amounted to \$163.3 million.

However, it should be noted that no specific amount is ever paid for constant costs. Rather, the constant costs are included as part of the rate scale which applies to both railways.

CONSTANT-COSTS CALCULATIONS

Question No. 56—**Mr. Angus:**

Has the National Transportation Agency made known to the government its views concerning constant-cost calculations under the Western Grain Transportation Act and, if so, what are they?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport): The Canadian Transport Commission (CTC), the predecessor of the National Transportation Agency, made its views concerning constant cost calculations under the WGTA known to the Government in its "Report to the Minister" dated March 1986. At that time, the CTC recom-

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mended 17.5 per cent of the volume-related costs of the railways as the appropriate contribution to constant costs.

Currently, the Agency, as part of its statutory duties under the WGTA, is conducting a costing review. In carrying out the review, the Agency is directed to assess the level of contribution to constant costs (presently set by legislation at 20 per cent). This assessment is in progress and the results will be reported to the Minister on or before March 31, 1990.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The questions as enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Parliamentary Secretary requested that you transfer written Questions Nos. 45, 52, 53, 62, 64, 83, and 88 to Notices of Motions for the Production of Papers, pursuant to Standing Order 39(6). At that time you will recall that you said that you would like to hear some arguments on this point. I would like to know at what time you intend to hear these arguments, because I would like to make some comments.

Mr. Lewis: Next opposition day.

Mr. Gauthier: I hear the Minister saying "next opposition day". I hope the Speaker is a little more generous than that.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, the initiatives that the Government took yesterday solicited a complete review and a lot of thought.

My understanding was that yesterday you indicated an interest in perhaps hearing some comments on a private basis with yourself, before comments were made in the House. If that is the case, I would certainly be prepared to arrange a meeting with you to provide some observations from our corner of the House.

Mr. Speaker: I thank both Hon. Members for their interventions. I was not particularly thinking of private submissions. I was thinking that Hon. Members could liaise with my office and that we could get a time when it