

Canadians in general, particularly those engaged in transportation, farming and travelling, with the present constitutional but illogical arrangements for the establishment of daylight saving time, would the Prime Minister consider placing this question on the agenda for the next federal-provincial conference with a view to establishing daylight saving time on a nation-wide basis as the result of an agreement between the federal government and the provinces?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman was good enough to give me written notice of this question as coming from "a member in the twilight of life".

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pearson: If there were anything I could do by extending daylight saving time or in any other way to extend that twilight I would be delighted to do so. I think the proposal that we should have uniformity on the matter, if possible, is a very sensible one, and perhaps this could be taken up at the next federal-provincial conference.

[Translation]

GRAIN

QUEBEC—INQUIRY AS TO LEASE OF ELEVATOR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the hon. Minister of Transport.

Could the minister tell the house whether it is true that the National Harbours Board has leased the Quebec grain elevators to the Bungee Company of New York for a ten-year period at a cost of a million dollars a year?

Did that transaction take place between the National Harbours Board and the owners of the grain elevators?

[English]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I indicated yesterday in reply to a question put by my hon. friend from Quebec South that the government had approved a proposal by the harbours board that the grain elevator at Quebec city should be leased to the firm which had submitted the highest bid, and that bid was from the firm mentioned by the hon. gentleman. I also indicated that certain very stringent conditions were attached to this transaction with respect

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to the handling of domestic grain. As for the precise amount of the lease, I have not got it under my hand at the moment.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question.

Could the hon. minister or the government not find someone in Canada instead of granting a lease of that kind to people outside Canada?

Mr. Speaker: The question is controversial.

Mr. Gustave Blouin (Saguenay): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Now that the grain elevators in the port of Quebec have been leased by the National Harbours Board to a grain company and that this company has cancelled what plans it had of building in the Sept-Iles harbour, does the Minister of Transport plan to make a comprehensive survey, jointly with his colleague the Minister of Public Works, of the tremendous possibilities the natural deep-sea harbour of Sept Iles offers large industries?

[English]

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, to deal with the last point first, the government did not authorize this lease until it had been fully assured that the company would not have proceeded with its project at Sept Iles whether or not the lease had been consummated, because we did not want to appear to prevent this project going ahead. I did meet with the mayor and other members of the council of Sept Iles, who were brought to my office by my hon. friend, and they asked me if I would speak to my colleague the Minister of Public Works with a view to having a comprehensive study made of the possibilities of the development of the port of Sept Iles. That study will be made just as soon as it can possibly be done.

[Translation]

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a supplementary question.

Is the rental involved in the lease greater or lower than the income the port brought to the Quebec grain elevators?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is asking for statistical information. The question is therefore out of order.

[English]

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary