

**WESTERN GRAIN TRANSPORTATION ACT****IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES TO CROWNEST PASS RATE—  
GOVERNMENT POLICY**

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. The Minister will know that on a number of occasions the Government of which he is a part indicated that it believed it was in the position to proceed with the implementation of certain legislation based on the fact that the legislation had received approval in principle, in other words, that the legislation had received second reading. I want to ask him a question specifically with regard to the grain transportation Bill. Can he assure the House that the Government has no intention of implementing those clauses of the Bill dealing directly with the changes to the Crownest Pass freight rates in advance of that legislation having received Royal Assent?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Quite right, Madam Speaker.

**INQUIRY RESPECTING POSSIBLE RETROACTIVITY OF  
PROVISIONS**

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Madam Speaker, can the Minister likewise assure the House that, under no circumstances, will the legislation dealing with the Crownest Pass freight rate sections be made retroactive upon passage of the legislation and its receiving Royal Assent?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I do not think I have to give legal advice, but to the best of my knowledge it is not going to be so. We have, however, made some interim payments to the railways.

**Mr. Deans:** That is a different matter.

**Mr. Pepin:** That is a different matter. We paid money for the purchase of hopper cars. Presumably that is a different matter also. Failing exact knowledge of what my hon. friend has in mind, I cannot read his eyes yet—on other matters, yes I can. When he tries to block a Bill, I can read his eyes all right. As I was saying not knowing full well what he has in mind, I can only say that, to the best of our ability, we have no intention of breaking the law.

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**PUBLIC SERVICE****AVERAGE WAGE INCREASES—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. It touches on a statement made by the Minister to the Canadian Manufacturer's Association recently, in which he stated:

—it would be very difficult to justify 8 per cent average increases for senior management salaries.

In fact it would be impossible to justify.

Having made that statement, will the Minister indicate to the House whether he is aware of the fact that the average

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increase for public servants in ten different Departments or programs that we reviewed was 17.2 per cent? In fact we find the National Capital Commission had wage increases of 18.2 per cent, DREE 18.6 per cent, and the Governor General 15.5 per cent. That is if you compare Main Estimates 1984 to Main Estimates 1983. Is the Minister aware of that and, if so, how does he justify it?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, perhaps the Hon. Member would like to be a little more precise and also a little more accurate in the way he interprets the facts. The figures he is giving have no connection with the salary increases of the persons concerned. Federal public servants have had their salary increments limited to 6 per cent for 1983 and 5 per cent for 1984. Those are the ceilings that were set. Now, if, in a department, certain positions are reclassified, and if people are promoted to other duties, or if there is an increase in the number of public servants in a specific department, obviously, the total wage bill for that department will increase more than 6 per cent, but I challenge the Hon. Member to prove that the average salary of employees working, for instance, for the National Capital Commission, has increased more than 6 per cent.

● (1430)

[English]

**Mr. Stevens:** Madam Speaker, of course I will take up that challenge.

**COMPARISON OF MAIN ESTIMATES**

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Madam Speaker, my further question to the Minister of Finance is to ask, on behalf of the people of Canada, if he would look at what is set out in the Main Estimates 1984, compare that to the salaries in the Main Estimates 1983, then divide that by the average number of employees in whatever Department he wants to look at. If he would take the time to do that I think he would find that one-quarter of the 131 Departments and programs have average incomes increasing over 10 per cent between those two Estimates. Would he look at that, and then would he come back and have the courage to tell the House that he is sorry for giving misinformation and is duly critical of the Departments concerned?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I can obviously see that the Hon. Member has already started shifting his ground. Having asked the first question in a specific way, he is now clearly changing the way he is asking the question. What happens is what I have said in French: the increases for individual civil servants are set at 6 per cent this year and 5 per cent next year. If there are other changes in salaries they are related either to promotion or changes of functions, or if the total amount—