

TRANSPORT

SHORTAGE OF BOXCARS FOR MOVEMENT OF GRAIN— REPAIRING OF UNSERVICEABLE CARS

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): My question is directed to the Minister of Transport. It concerns the chronic and critical situation respecting boxcars, particularly on the prairies where there are insufficient boxcars to meet the needs for export of wheat and, indeed, lumber industries are also finding that they cannot ship the products they have available. I know the minister has no authority over the CPR, but will he call together both railway companies in order to see what can be done in this connection? At the same time, I ask the minister about the closure of the CNR car repair shops at Winnipeg and Pointe St. Charles recently. All over western Canada there are cars stored in various yards in a state of disrepair and non-repair and therefore unuseable. The situation is of such serious importance that I ask the minister to give immediate attention to doing something to jack up these railway companies to the realization that action is necessary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure whether that was a question, a series of questions or an address, but the minister might reply to the question asked by the right hon. member.

Mr. Diefenbaker: They are all part and parcel of the same thing.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I compliment the right hon. member on his fine speech.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jamieson: I suspect he is not aware that as a result of his earlier representations some 18 Members of Parliament chose yesterday to meet with spokesmen for the two railways here in Ottawa. I arranged that meeting in Ottawa on the very subject he has raised. Last night I met with the president of Canadian National Railways and received from him a new paper, which I have not yet had a chance to read, about what they are proposing to do with regard to the grain situation. His judgment was that there has been an improvement this year compared with previous years and they are hopeful this improvement will continue.

• (11:20 a.m.)

Mr. Diefenbaker: I suggest the minister go out west to the various yards in smaller towns away from the main yards and see for himself the number of cars piled up there. With regard to this report of the CNR, has that been leaked yet?

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SYSTEMS APPROACH FOR MOVEMENT OF GRAIN

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Would the minister also take into account the statement made by a vice-president of one of the major railways at a meeting of Wheat Pool delegates in Saskatchewan that it is essential to develop a new systems approach if we are to move the

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volume of grain which it appears we shall be called upon to move in the future?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. If the hon. member is supporting that idea, I do as well. I believe a new systems approach is necessary, but I think the hon. member will also agree that the block system, which is itself something of a new approach, has already improved the situation to some degree.

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IMMIGRATION

ALLEGED ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN ALIENS ENTERING UNITED STATES THROUGH CANADA

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. Is the government aware that Canada is being used as a depot or staging point in connection with large-scale illicit traffic in smuggling aliens into the United States through Canada, and is any action being taken in this regard?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I cannot accept the statement made by the hon. member but I will make inquiries to find out whether there is any substance whatever to his charge.

Mr. Baldwin: Since there seems to be some problem within the cabinet at the highest level about bringing in amendments to the Immigration Act, will the government make a statement on motions at the first opportunity indicating its position in this regard, and will it also take the initiative in referring this whole matter to the appropriate standing committee so it can investigate it and make a report to the House and to the government?

Mr. Sharp: As I say, I cannot accept the initial statement made by the hon. member, but I will make inquiries to see whether there is any substance whatever to the charge.

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AGRICULTURE

SUGGESTED RAPID PASSAGE OF NATIONAL MARKETING LEGISLATION

Mr. Murray McBride (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question concerns a subject of urgency to the agricultural industry. I address it to the Minister of Agriculture or, in his absence, to the parliamentary secretary. Having regard to the almost unanimous request by the provinces, including the Minister of Agriculture for Alberta, Mr. Horner, for the rapid passage of national agricultural marketing legislation, will the minister now recommend that Bill C-176 be called for swift passage through this House?

[Translation]

Mr. Marcel Lessard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for having asked that question. I can assure him that the Minister of Agriculture took note of the representations of the provincial ministers of agriculture.