

*Dorion Level Crossing Accident*

We are pleased to note that an immediate investigation is being carried on by the Board of Transport Commissioners and the railway company, and hope this terrible happening will cause the authorities to make a more careful examination of railway crossings generally. There have been far too many accidents of this nature in Canada in recent years, and it may be that inspections of these level crossings are becoming too much of a routine procedure and are not being carried out carefully or frequently enough. I hope this tragic event will stimulate some action in order that, if it is humanly possible, we will not have a repetition of this kind of thing.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, we were astounded to learn last Friday evening that 19 young people had been killed in a terrible accident in Dorion. We have been informed since then that six others are in critical condition in Montreal hospitals.

The Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill) tells us that a full investigation will be conducted without delay in order to ascertain the cause of this accident. It is unfortunate that such an investigation had not been ordered earlier, because so many deaths and such a dreadful accident could have been prevented.

As a matter of fact, everybody knows that the traffic is always very heavy in Dorion and that a few miles in either direction from that town there are level crossings. I believe the investigators will have no trouble finding the cause of the accident. In the first place, that level crossing should have been removed many years ago.

It may not be appropriate, on such an occasion, to point out this fact, but the fact remains and those level crossings must necessarily be eliminated where traffic is so heavy.

Mr. Speaker, the group which I represent, the Ralliement Créditiste, share the grief of those sorely tried families. We extend to each of those families our heartfelt sympathy and we hope that the competent authorities will see to it that such accidents never occur again in our country.

• (2:50 p.m.)

[*English*]

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Social Credit party [Mr. Douglas.]

I wish to associate myself with the expressions of sympathy and concern at this tragedy which took place over the Thanksgiving week end. We extend our sympathy to the families of those who were killed. It is also a tragedy that it takes an accident of this type to bring to our attention the importance and urgent need of taking every precautionary step that will eliminate such accidents. We are reminded of the school bus accident that took place in Lamont, Alberta, several years ago and the number of young people, not to mention others, whose lives had been taken in railroad crossing accidents in the interval.

I would urge the minister at this time to reconsider a safety measure which has been discussed with him a number of times, namely the installation of electronic warning devices particularly on public vehicles such as school buses. Certainly precautionary measures should be given greater consideration in order to prevent such accidents, and these matters should not only be considered when an accident occurs and the situation is emphasized.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we associate ourselves with the expressions of sympathy put forward by other hon. members and urge the minister to take every possible action, not only to investigate this accident but to bring about safety measures such as have been suggested in order to prevent these accidents occurring.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS****TABLING OF REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ELECTION EXPENSES**

**Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table in English and in French two copies of the report of the special committee on election expenses.

[*Translation*]

**COAL****TABLING OF REPORT ON ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Receiver General (Mr. Sharp) who has received this document, I table two English and two French copies of the report on the problem of Cape Breton coal mines, better known under the name of the Donald report.