

## S.O. 21

## MARITIME FREIGHT RATES ACT

## CALL FOR CONTINUANCE

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Madam Speaker, just as the statutory Crownsnest Pass freight rates are of vital benefit to western Canada, so is the Maritime Freight Rates Act of benefit to Atlantic Canada.

The federal Government would like to change the maritime freight rate subsidies if it succeeds in cancelling the Crow rate. A similar policy to increase Maritime freight rates in the 1920s to commercial levels, cost 20,000 manufacturing jobs in Atlantic Canada. Reducing the subsidies today means that industries in the Atlantic region will move their operations closer to major markets.

● (1410)

Is it fair to change the industrial base and employment opportunities for those who located in Atlantic Canada with the understanding that freight subsidies were permanent? Are we prepared to pay the social and economic costs of increasing unemployment in Atlantic Canada? This nation has an obligation to provide low cost transportation to Atlantic Canada which gave up a prosperous trade with the United States when it entered Confederation.

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## LABOUR CONDITIONS

## UNEMPLOYMENT IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

**Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque):** Madam Speaker, I would like to address the serious unemployment situation which exists in Prince Edward Island. P.E.I. is experiencing an unemployment rate in excess of 11 per cent, according to April statistics.

I have recently received a telegram from the President of the P.E.I. Building Trades Council expressing great concern over the unemployment situation which exists among labourers on the Island. He indicated that it is imperative that proposed construction jobs commence as soon as possible.

Out of a union of 150 labourers on the Island, only 90 are currently employed. There is also a 75 per cent to 90 per cent rate of unemployment existing on the Island for carpenters, electricians, and plumbers. This is a drastic situation, and measures must be taken to help alleviate this serious problem.

The proposed projects for a veterinary college and construction of a new Charlottetown airport terminal must be started as soon as possible. Without a doubt, Islanders must feel some anxiety over the starting of these projects as the Charlottetown airport terminal construction has been delayed since 1974. The Federal-Provincial Planning Committee agreed that a new air terminal building would be constructed in 1974 but nothing has started yet, and it is 1983.

I urge that these projects be started without further delay and that the construction of a veterinary college, for which an agreement was signed over the weekend, begin immediately.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## SERVICE RENDERED BY PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES

**Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member for Hamilton West (Mr. Hudecki) chided those Members of the Progressive Conservative Party who are Members of the House of Commons, and who are out seeking the leadership of the Party. I should like to suggest that they are doing a service to their country at the present time by letting their names stand for leadership of the Party. All of us in the House know that the next leader of the Conservative Party will be the Prime Minister of the country.

I should like to suggest also that people from coast to coast in Canada are waiting in anticipation for a certain number of Liberal Members, particularly those on the front bench, to withdraw completely from the House of Commons, and would encourage them to do so.

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## POLITICAL PARTIES

## MEDICARE—POSITIONS OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Madam Speaker, to respond to what has just been said, I think it is appropriate to point out that however good it may be that certain Members of the House have let their names stand for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party, it would be better for the whole country if they would also stand for something.

In that context I should like to call to the attention of the House and of all Canadians who might be concerned about the future of medicare that we do not know—except for Peter Pocklington who would like to get rid of the whole thing—where the various candidates stand on the future of medicare. Should any of them become Prime Minister of Canada, we do not know if they will stand up to what the Provinces are doing to medicare, or whether they will be patsies for the Provinces that are eroding medicare.

Like many other Canadians I should like to know where the various candidates for the Prime Ministership of Canada stand on important social programs like medicare. So far those who are really against it have not had the guts to come out and say so. No doubt there are many of them, because that is where the Tories really stand on medicare. And if there are any who are for medicare they have not had the guts to say so either, because then there would be visited upon them the retribution of the various right wing elements in the Conservative Party who would like to do away with medicare altogether.