

Oral Questions

which will be flexible in order to help people who have future problems, because we also know that the foam disintegrates over a period of time and there is a greater risk to health later on?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, the questions put by the hon. member will be addressed in the program we shall be announcing within the next few days. The hon. member is quite right in saying that setting an arbitrary standard may be harmful to some UFFI victims. This will be a consideration when the program is announced.

[English]

DEPRECIATION OF PROPERTY VALUES

Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, UFFI victims are also very worried and angry because they know that the value of their homes has gone down, and real estate agencies will not even list their homes because they are not saleable. Will the minister therefore order a real estate assessment? He has already done one testing. Will he do another testing, a real estate assessment of the depreciation in property values which has occurred because of UFFI? Will he tell us what he intends to do about the economic disaster which is plaguing UFFI home owners who deserve compensation? They did not endorse UFFI through CHIP; it was the federal government that sponsored it.

● (1440)

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, as I said before, the product was not approved but was accepted along with a list of other products for insulation purposes, and the Government of Canada had not been promoting this particular product but the insulation of homes in general. Regarding the value of these homes, obviously we shall want to deal with this matter, because home owners have noted, and correctly so, that the resale value of their property has gone down. In our program of corrective action, we intend to address this matter and to make suggestions to the municipal authorities, in order to have these homes renovated and their resale value restored to normal levels.

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[English]

TRANSPORT

PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICE TO COMMUNITIES
AFFECTED BY VIA RAIL CUTBACKS

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Despite the assurances by the minister that the world would evolve as usual after Novem-

ber 15, the fact is that for the good citizens of such communities as McAdam, Plaster Rock, Juniper, McGivney, Napodogan, Chipman and Minto, the world has not evolved as usual since November 15.

On October 26 the minister stated, "We have been very careful not to restrain or cut services to isolated areas. Buses will go where train service was traditional." On November 5 the minister said, "I shall have the opportunity in the very near future to report on the results I have achieved." Will the minister tell the House when the federal wagons will roll to those communities that were cut off by him on November 15 from the rest of the nation?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I did say that, and what the hon. member said has taken place. In a number of instances VIA is trying to improve what was done by giving better service. Indeed, in a number of places buses are now ensuring transportation where they did not do so before. I could enumerate some of these cases, and I will if my hon. friend would like me to do so.

COMMUNITIES WITHOUT SERVICE

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Madam Speaker, what the minister has just said is exactly what he said on November 5, that he would be making these issues clear later on. But the good citizens of the communities of Napodogan and Plaster Rock, Chipman and Minto have not seen any tangible efforts in this particular area. Therefore, will the minister confirm that these people will not be receiving any sort of bus service or transportation link to communities with which they have had transportation links in the past? Alternatively, will he deny that?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I will inquire further and report to my hon. friend.

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CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

WITHDRAWAL FROM FEED GRAINS DOMESTIC MARKET

Mr. Charles Mayer (Portage-Marquette): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport about which I gave him prior notice. It has to do with his responsibilities to this chamber for the Canadian Wheat Board. Is the Canadian Wheat Board withdrawing from supplying feed grains to the domestic market at the formula price, the corn competitive price, as required under the national feed grains policy?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, the Canadian Wheat Board announced they will do that by December 21. The present situation is a difficult one because we have a conflict of two policies. First, under the Canadian Wheat Board Act, it is the responsibility of the Canadian Wheat Board to sell grains at reasonable prices. Second is the feed grains policy whereby the Canadian Wheat Board acts as a residual supplier and must sell in eastern