S.O. 21

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

RETENTION OF PRAIRIE HEADOUARTERS IN WINNIPEG

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, with friends like the four Manitoban members in the Cabinet, Manitoba does not need enemies. I am referring to the decision announced yesterday by the Government to establish the new position of senior vice-president for western Canada in the CNR. This position will be "based in Edmonton, and the new powers to be entrusted to it will reflect the reality that close to 70 per cent of CN's rail business is done west from Thunder Bay."

The fact is that the prairie regional headquarters of the Canadian National Railways is in Winnipeg. This announcement yesterday by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) gives rise to recalling the fears which Winnipeggers had two years ago when there were rumours there would be a reorganization of the CNR and only one region would be created out of two, the mountain and the prairie region, and that the new regional headquarters would be in Edmonton. Here we have what may well indeed be a foreshadowing of that future by having that new vice-president operate out of Edmonton.

I call on the Manitoban members of the Cabinet to make sure that this is not the beginning of the end for Winnipeg as a regional headquarters for Canadian National Railways. We have already seen the postponement of the VIA Rail repair shop in Winnipeg, the cancellation of the National Research Council project, and the leaking of work out of the CNR east to Toronto and now west to Edmonton. When are those Hon. Members going to stand up for their own province?

[Translation]

REFORM OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

FUTURE PROSPEC

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil-Papineau): Last Thursday, Mr. Speaker, the Government House Leader tabled the Government's response to the first report of the Special Committee on the Reform of the House of Commons, on which I have the privilege to sit.

Mr. Speaker, may I say that I found the response encouraging and that I am enthusiastic about the prospective changes this reform will bring for the benefit of Members of the House, a reform which will undoubtedly improve the perception Canadians have of this institution.

I invite and strongly urge Hon. Members to make suggestions and recommendations to the Committee, for it is important to reform Canada's Parliament so that every Member may be heard and have his or her say about legislation introduced by the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

At 1.02 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

TOURISM

HAMILTON EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, "jobs, jobs, jobs", was the Tory election cry, but that cry has left the people of Hamilton crying. Not only has the federal Government failed to take action to protect steel jobs from unfair international dumping practices, but the provincial Tories have refused to support the steel industry bid to recycle steel, not aluminium cans. The only Party which has taken a clear position on this issue is the Liberal Party. The New Democratic Party and the Progressive Conservative Party are both "reviewing" the situation.

The people of Hamilton do not want reviews. They want jobs, including people like Ernie Kablau, who has invested \$800,000 and is ready to create 18 jobs by launching a Hamilton-based cruise ship on Lake Ontario. The Tory response was: "We won't help because Hamilton is not a tourism priority".

The Tories have always seen Hamilton as a dumping ground for projects like "Go Alert" but have never given us a chance to develop the tourism potential which could help get the Hamilton economy back on track. Instead, the Government is hindering. Not only has approval for Ernie Kablau's project been stalled by federal and provincial Conservatives, the project is now threatened because an American company has applied to do exactly the same thing. We want made-in-Canada jobs for Canadians, jobs in the steel industry, in tourism, home based jobs to make Hamilton proud. We don't want government red tape.

The hollow promises of the past federal Conservative election campaign are being echoed by their provincial cousins. Mr. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), won't you crack the whip with your junior cousin in Toronto—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to advise the Hon. Member that her time has expired.