

Oral Questions

TRANSPORT

GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO USE OF
CANADIAN SHIPS TO MOVE OIL FROM ARCTIC

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, now that the Minister of Transport has had two or three days to catch up on the nomenclature of Maritime activities for which he is responsible, I would ask whether it is the intention of the government to close the Arctic exclusively for Canadian shipping in terms of the extractive resource industries there?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we certainly would not close the Arctic to all but Canadian ships. My colleague and I are still not speaking exactly the same language. It is, of course, a matter of importance for us to attempt to have as much Canadian shipping as possible in that development, and that is the general proposition and remains our policy. I would not want to become completely specific by suggesting in absolute terms that no other ship would ever be encouraged there.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister of Transport whether it is government policy at this point in time not to interfere with Panarctic's intention to go offshore to Scandinavian countries for the purpose of purchasing three ships in the eventuality of commercial oil being moved from the Arctic to a refinery located somewhere south of the 60th parallel?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I would properly treat that as a hypothetical question which at some point I might discuss with my colleague, the minister responsible in respect of Panarctic. However, I would not want to rule out the specific purchase or use of ships from offshore in any circumstance, and I want to say that frankly to the hon. member. After all, there are times when our Canadian shipbuilding facilities may be fully taxed, and at that particular point one would encourage going offshore in order to have the ships. I just use that as an example.

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ABORTION

INCLUSION OF STUDY OF FAMILY PLANNING FACILITIES IN
TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMITTEE ON ABORTION

Mr. F. A. Philbrook (Halton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice regarding the new committee studying therapeutic abortions in Canada over the next six months. Will the committee equally be studying the adequacy of family planning facilities in all areas as a means of preventing the need for abortions in the first place?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the other day I tabled the terms of reference of the committee, and there is consideration being given in those terms of reference to that issue.

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

● (1450)

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

ALLEGED SCRAPPING OF FREIGHT CARS—REQUEST FOR
INVESTIGATION

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Transport and ask him if he would investigate the fact that CPR has been reducing its rolling stock by scrapping freight cars every day, many of them in good condition, a program which is contrary to the understanding which the minister had with the railways and which has led to the layoffs of almost 1,000 people in Winnipeg?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I did some preliminary investigation when we purchased hopper cars. It was, of course, with the understanding contained in the subsequent agreement that the removal of regular cars could not be accelerated. It was never contemplated that all cars would be kept in service. I am told that so far as the CNR is concerned that agreement is being adhered to, and I believe it may also be true in relation to CPR, but we are looking further into that.

Mr. Orlikow: In view of the fact that there have been virtually no layoffs by the CNR but substantial layoffs in many cities in Canada by CPR, would the minister look into the question of whether CPR is in fact adhering to the agreement at which they arrived with the minister three years ago or whether CPR is exempt from following agreements and understandings which they made with the Government of Canada in good faith?

Mr. Lang: Of course, they are not exempt, and I have indicated I have begun and will continue to look into that question. The layoff situation on the railways is in part due to the economic slow down in the economy and therefore a modification in the use of cars. When cars are used to a lesser extent, the repair required for those cars is also reduced. I think that explains some of the layoffs.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ACTION TO DEAL WITH VIOLENCE IN HOCKEY—GOVERNMENT
POSITION

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. Will the minister be communicating with his provincial counterparts in light of the strong representations made with respect to violence in hockey in light of the protest by Bobby Hull last weekend? Will he be conferring with his provincial counterparts to ensure that similar action is taken in the various other provinces?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): I understand that what Mr. McMurtry has done has been to instruct Crown counsel and police to take action under the existing law to deal with the question of violence in hockey. I would urge that all other attorneys general follow Mr. McMurtry's lead in this, but so far as I understand the situation Mr. McMurtry is not requesting of me any