

S. O. 31

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The motion is defeated. Debate. The Hon. Member for Bonavista—Trinity—Conception.

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Mr. Speaker, by way of a comment I would like to commiserate with my colleague from Moncton. He talked about his concern about the 1200 workers in Moncton. I know Moncton. I have visited there. He talked about his concern about the renegeing on the promise of building the badly needed Canadian Forces supply depot. We are dealing with plant and infrastructure that have been in existence there since before World War II. In the area of VIA Rail and transportation in Eastern Canada and, relevant to his point on VIA Rail in Moncton, Newfoundlanders are very conscious of the bum deal they got from this Government in which the Newfoundland railroad was closed down in September of last year for a sum that on the surface looks very large, \$800 million.

But when you consider how much the railway was losing each year—I think it amounted to somewhere in the vicinity of \$50 million—if we multiply that by 15 years, that is \$750 million that is being lost in now-year dollars. That is \$750 million alone. If we add to that the \$100 million that was necessary to look after the communities of Bishop Falls and Port aux Basques that were suffering because of this and to also pay off the unfortunate people who lost their jobs, \$800 million is not very much money.

We have no roads. We have no railroad. It is going to cost us \$2.25 billion to pave a four-lane highway across Newfoundland. We are now in the position where major transportation is under a great impediment. We certainly have no passenger service. That went out in 1967 or 1968. We are in a very, very difficult situation with respect to transportation. The Hon. Member from Moncton, I believe, is giving warning and is the harbinger of bad things to come for Eastern Canada. As a Newfoundlander, and as a Member from Eastern Canada, I will tell you that this is something that we should not be looking forward to. It is something that we should fight until there is not a breath of air left in our body.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being awfully close to one o'clock, I will call it one o'clock. The House will resume again at two o'clock this day.

At 12.58 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*Translation*]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CASABLANCA ARAB SUMMIT—LEBANON'S FUTURE

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel): Mr. Speaker, on Friday the Arab Summit in Casablanca called for a political settlement for the Lebanese crisis, based on a reform of the system followed by the election of a president of the republic.

With all our heart, we hope that the kings of Morocco and Saudi Arabia and the Algerian Head of State who are handling this sensitive issue will succeed in this mission as soon as possible.

Nevertheless, we deeply regret that the Arab Summit did not recognize that it will be almost impossible to hold free presidential elections, to form a new government or to develop the constitution until the non-Lebanese armed forces have left the country.

I ask the Canadian Government to use all the resources at its disposal, especially its seat on the United Nations Security Council, to help the Lebanese determine their own future and their own government and be able finally to live in freedom and peace.

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[*English*]

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

LEADERSHIP BID OF MEMBER FOR PORT MOODY—COQUITLAM

Mr. René Soetens (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, on May 26, the Hon. Member for Port Moody—Coquitlam (Mr. Waddell) boasted that skirting the edges of the rules of procedure of this House was not a dangerous precedent but instead was a good opening shot on his leadership campaign.

On Tuesday, May 9, the Hon. Member for Port Moody—Coquitlam announced his intentions to seek the leadership of the New Democratic Party of Canada.