

Member's interest in having a new Customs Act in Canada that would contain provisions aimed at monitoring the use of the mails for sending contraband goods, and especially narcotics.

I may also say that I am counting on the Hon. Member supporting the Bill within his own caucus, to ensure that if the Bill were tabled in the House shortly, it could be considered with due dispatch and quickly referred to the appropriate standing committee, which would then be able to proceed with a thorough study of the Bill. We might then have a new Customs Act by the end of June.

I can assure the Hon. Member that if he can guarantee the co-operation of his caucus, I will discuss with the Government House Leader the possibility of tabling this Bill as soon as possible and getting it quickly through the second reading stage for consideration in committee and then back to the House for third reading.

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[English]

RAILWAYS

CROWSNEST PASS RATE—RAILWAY UPGRADING—PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister seems to be confusing two separate issues when he discusses transportation problems and the Crow rate in western Canada. I would ask the Prime Minister if he has discussed these two policy decisions separately with the Premiers of the Provinces and with the groups in the West, because it seems to me that he is confusing a favourable response to his question about the need for railway upgrading with a favourable response to his question about the need for changing the Crow. Does he indeed speak of them as two separate issues, or does he insist on combining them as one issue as is the case with the Bill that the Minister of Transport has brought before the House?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is correct. There are two aspects, and some of my interlocutors are more interested in one aspect than in the other. For instance, it is easy to see that those who are interested in an improved transportation system would probably include a lot of Manitobans, because I understand the Minister of Transport has announced or will announce that there will be some 1,000 proper cars or so built at the Transcona plant in Winnipeg.

● (1200)

The Hon. Member should realize, as the people of Winnipeg should realize, that one goes with the other. We are not going to need those cars if we cannot move the grain. We will not be able to move the grain if we cannot pay for the movement of grain. Therefore, the whole matter is interlinked. That is why I repeat that every person I have met from the West realizes

Privilege—Mr. Nowlan

that the Crow must change. The whole system must change in order that transportation be made more efficient, and in order that the industrial development of the West becomes a greater possibility.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Western Arctic.

Mr. Nickerson: Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, but I am afraid he has already departed.

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PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that all the petitions, with the exception of three presented by Hon. Members on Thursday, May 19, 1983, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

The petition presented by the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of State for Economic Development and Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Peterson) and two of the petitions presented by the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly) do not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. NOWLAN—LANGUAGE USED BY MR. TRUDEAU DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Mr. Speaker, I do not think it will surprise you that I rise on a question of privilege, but I will not take too much of the time of the House. I have checked the rule book but I really do not care about the rule book in terms of getting into a dissection of what is privilege and what is not.

A few minutes ago the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) called me a coward. We in public life are called many things and will be called many things outside this Chamber, and obviously sometimes we will be called things in this Chamber. But, Mr. Speaker, I would really like the Prime Minister to reconsider that remark. In view of the dignity of this Chamber, let alone the prerogative of its office, does he really think that type of language is the type of language that should be used by a Prime Minister who is supposed to set some standards? In yelling out the accusation he is implying the basest type of motives to what a Member is trying to do by asking questions that are in the public domain. A Crown corporation and the political appointment of its head are matters that are certainly within the public domain.

I am going to ask the Prime Minister to reflect on that and see if he wants to continue to have the language of this House become the language of the school yard or sometimes even the language of the barnyard. Surely there is some onus on him.