

Oral Questions

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, the legislation, I believe, will be very responsive to the concerns of the government and of the hon. member with respect to better control, direction and accountability. He will have to await the tabling of the legislation, and at that time he will then be able to examine the specific details of the government's policy.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

DECISION TO ABANDON SERVICE BETWEEN LIVERPOOL AND YARMOUTH, N.S.

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Transport. The Canadian Transport Commission has decided to abandon the service provided by Canadian National Railways from Liverpool to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, a distance of some 135 miles, on August 1, 1982. This is a retrograde, reprehensible, repugnant step which is not and cannot be condoned by any Nova Scotian, especially those citizens whose industry and livelihood in Lockeport, Shelburne, and all along the South Shore will suffer as a result of the government's actions. Will the minister halt this madness since the action can only be implemented provided a new loading ramp at Yarmouth belonging to the Dominion Atlantic Railway has been upgraded or rebuilt, which according to the commission must be done on or before August 1? Will the minister please call a halt to what is going on?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, as all hon. members know, decisions of the CTC are appealable to the minister. If my hon. friend feels as strongly as he does, and I am quite sure other people feel similarly, they can appeal the decision. I will then be seized with it and will have to render a decision.

Mr. Crouse: Madam Speaker, I thank the minister for that answer. I would point out that I wrote a letter to him on May 21, 1982, which I hope he will consider an appeal. What a farce this government is making of the Prime Minister's promise made during the last election campaign that his government would improve the services of the CNR to all Canadians.

Mr. Crosby: That is another broken promise.

Mr. Epp: The Liberals have broken every other one, why should they worry about this one?

Mr. Crouse: Yes, another broken promise.

REQUEST THAT DECISION BE REVIEWED

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, since the removal of service means the relocation of an explosives

storage area from a remote spot in Queens County, which can no longer be serviced by the CNR, to a more settled area in Lunenburg County, the re-establishment of which is a very great concern to my constituents, will the minister, in the interests of maintaining employment on the South Shore, review this entire matter? If not, will the minister please tell my constituents through this House how in the name of all that is reasonable will the heavy industry in the area between Liverpool and Yarmouth hope to be serviced?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, there is a procedure for appeal to the CTC. I would doubt whether a letter to the minister is sufficient to bring about a review. However, I will send the hon. member notes indicating the procedure to be followed. If the hon. member wants the minister to review the matter, that is the best way to do it.

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[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE

ALLEGED DIFFICULTY IN APPLYING CERTAIN PROVISIONS CONCERNING PROSTITUTION IN OTTAWA

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development. During the past few weeks, I have received a number of complaints from people in my riding regarding the problems caused by prostitution in the western part of Lower Town here in Ottawa. The area has seen a considerable increase in prostitution among young people who are probably being exploited by pimps. Since the police admit they are unable to control the problem effectively because according to them, the sections of the Criminal Code that deal with this matter are ambiguous, can the minister inform the House whether the government intends to take any action to facilitate the work of the police, and finally, would he undertake to meet again with his provincial counterparts to discuss such action and how the law is to be enforced?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Madam Speaker, the problem was referred to committee with the unanimous consent of the House a few weeks ago, and is being discussed within the context of the debate on Bill C-53 which is before the committee at the present time. The members of the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs have received presentations on the subject, and they are now considering the various options open to the government for changing the legislation or taking other kinds of action if necessary. If the hon. member wishes to make representations, he could do so before the committee.