

**Mr. MacKay:**—and it was held in a convenient place. The former Minister of Justice says why not in my office? Because it was not convenient to have it in my office that evening.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. MacKay:** I suppose the next question may well be: Did I wear a necktie, or what else? I come back to the question from my hon. friend from Windsor and tell him this. I briefed the RCMP Commissioner and I have no intention of getting into timeframes and details.

**Mr. Nunziata:** What are you hiding?

**Mr. MacKay:** I am not—well, I remember them. The House will certainly know that the RCMP Commissioner is available if Members wish to ask him about it.

\* \* \*

## RAILWAYS

### PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE CABOSES

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to a matter affecting the safety of the public, employees of the railroads, and thousands of jobs. I ask the Minister of Transport what the Government's policy is on the matter of caboosless trains. Specifically, what takes priority with the Government and his Department, public and employee safety, or the ability of the railroads to save money?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, this subject has been under intensive consideration by the Canadian Transport Commission. There have been hearings across Canada, namely, in Moncton, Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Ottawa. My understanding is that the CTC returned to Winnipeg for further hearings, and there will be further hearings here in Ottawa commencing this week, I believe. When the hearings are concluded and the recommendations are brought forth, we will then be in a position to determine whether the testing of the caboosless train should take place. I think it is only proper that we allow the CTC to adjudicate the pros and cons of that particular issue.

● (1500)

### TESTING AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, the proposed plan for testing calls for the railway officers to compile and submit reports. In order to avoid the coyote being in charge of the chicken coop, will the Minister assure the House that, if and when testing of caboosless trains occurs, independent experts from his Department, the CTC, or anywhere else, will do the compiling and submitting of reports, rather than officers of the railroad?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I would not want to be in a position of prejudging the

### Order Paper Questions

recommendations that will be brought down by the CTC. I think that the Hon. Member is posing a hypothetical scenario. I would rather wait until the recommendations come down. We will then look at them and act accordingly.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

#### PRESENTATION OF FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the first report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

[Editor's Note: For above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

\* \* \*

[Translation]

### QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. Paul Dick (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 63 and 143.

[Text]

#### FIRE DRILLS AT CBC WINNIPEG

##### Question No. 63—**Mr. Skelly:**

1. In the past 26 years, has the management of the main CBC building, 541 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg ever had a fire drill for their 300 employees?
2. Did the Federal Fire Commissioner inform the 300 employees that "Relax, you'll have one before your tootsies get cold"?
3. Will Labour Canada write an order requiring CBC management to hold a fire drill and, if not, for what reason?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of State (Government House Leader)):** I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Departments of Labour and Public Works as follows:

1. Yes.
2. No.
3. Labour Canada central region has not issued a direction to CBC Winnipeg to hold fire evacuation drills. Our reason is that CBC local management are just completing their emergency measures plan. Fire wardens and floor wardens are designated and floor monitors are in the process of being appointed. A timeframe is being discussed with the CBC operating units and safety co-ordinator so that a fire department-supervised drill can be held soon, probably within the next few weeks to a month.