

*Order Paper Questions*

**Mr. Jean-Louis Leduc (for Mr. Pelletier)** moved:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Regional Development, presented to the House on Thursday, June 19, 1980, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

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**QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER**

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 51, 116 (Corrected), 149, 304, 323, 609, 772, 805 and 911.

[Text]

## WESTERN CNR ROUTE

Question No. 51—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Did Mr. R. A. Bandeen, President and Chief Executive Officer of the CNR, state on or about Thursday, March 27, 1980, that the entire western CNR route could be double-tracked by the end of the decade in accordance with traffic demands and, if so, what is the estimate of double-tracking to the extent mentioned by Mr. Bandeen?

2. Did the Minister of Transport state on Wednesday, March 26, 1980, that he had anticipated that the double-tracking proposal would be 975 kilometres in length and, if so, will this become government policy?

3. Was the minister quoted by the news media to the effect that 40 per cent of the CNR mainline from Winnipeg to Vancouver would be double-tracked by 1988 and, if so, is the minister stating government policy?

**Mr. Robert Bockstael (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** The management of Canadian National Railways advises as follows: 1. Within the context of remarks made at the press conference called by the Minister of Transport in Winnipeg on March 26, Mr. Bandeen referred to an earlier company statement on the subject of double-tracking by saying:

“Speaking to WESTAC here just two weeks ago, Ron Lawless, president of CN Rail, said that the ultimate in capacity would be a transcontinental railway. Referring specifically to double-tracking west of Winnipeg, he (Lawless) said that if traffic growth continued as at present, this might be both necessary, in terms of volume, and justifiable due to increasing revenues, but that it’s not likely to happen in the 1980s.”

Mr. Bandeen said that traffic projections showed that the major growth will be primarily west of Edmonton. He described the various sections of double-tracking planned and said that by 1988 CN expects to have completed double-tracking between Edmonton and Valemout, a distance of 308 miles, and about 35 per cent to 50 per cent of the line between Valemout and Vancouver, representing a further 160-230 miles.

2 and 3. To be answered elsewhere.

Transport Canada advises as follows: 1. To be answered elsewhere.

2. (a) The minister stated on March 26, 1980, that: “The present outlook is that by 1988 nearly 40 per cent of CN’s main line between Winnipeg and Vancouver will be double-tracked.” However, the minister was reported as having stated at the press conference that “the percentage of double-tracking proposed represents about 975 kilometres (605 miles)”.

(b) The minister also stated that: “To the extent that double-tracking was needed to ensure that an adequate level of capacity was provided to meet growing Western needs during the 1980s, the government would ensure that CN took the necessary steps and had the resources to do it.”

3. The following, with respect to question 3, were quoted in the newspapers:

“40 per cent of the Winnipeg-Vancouver line could be double-tracked by 1988.”

“CNR will double-track 40 per cent of its mainline between Winnipeg and Vancouver probably by 1988.”

“The railway will double-track at least 40 per cent of the line by 1988.”

“The railway already has realized that its plans to double-track up to 40 per cent of the Winnipeg-Vancouver run wasn’t enough for expected demand by 1983 so that an increase over 40 per cent by then is inevitable.”

## PUBLIC SERVANTS WORKING IN HULL

Question No. 116 (Corrected)—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. In each of the past six years, what was the total number of public servants working in the Hull, Quebec area?

2. What is the total at the present time?

**Mr. Robert Daudlin (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board):** 1. During the last six years, the number of public servants working in the Hull area (Quebec) was as follows:

December 1974:	3,988
1975:	4,812
1976:	5,341
1977:	5,709
1978:	14,511
1979:	15,904

2. In March, 1980, the number of employees working in the Hull area (Quebec) was 16,214.

NOTE: (1) The data reflect the number of employees on strength reported by departments and agencies in respect of which Treasury Board is the employer—Part I, Schedule I of the Public Service Staff Relations Act—and who are working in the greater Hull area defined at this date as comprising: Aylmer, Lucerne, Deschênes, Gatineau, Templeton Ouest, Village de Templeton, Pointe-Gatineau, Hull, Buckingham,