

Oral Questions

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Let me make it clear that if the House could see its way to give early passage to this bill, I would be delighted. In that sense, I think it is an important bill. It is in the context of the general delaying tactics that I see in the House on the part of the opposition that I am bound to conclude that it would not pass very quickly.

I am surprised, however, that the hon. member does not know that we have set up an accident review board to investigate air accidents, so we have taken the steps open to us in the absence of legislation.

Mr. Murta: The accident review board has obviously not been working very well. The minister knows quite well that the proposition he mentioned a few minutes ago is totally false. He never approached anybody on this side with regard to speeding this legislation along.

What does he intend to do in the interim, given the fact that it could take up to two years before this legislation, even if it was passed, could be made effective?

Mr. Lang: I do not agree it would take so long. I think we could get the legislation in place fairly quickly, say before the end of 1979, and move to set up the commission rapidly.

The hon. member says I did not approach anyone on that side with regard to the bill. Perhaps not, with regard to this particular bill, but I did get word from the spokesman on transportation for the Conservative party they would not let anything through unless we let them travel first throughout the country.

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STATISTICS CANADA

SURVEY OF FAMILY EXPENDITURES—NECESSITY THEREFOR

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce as the minister responsible for Statistics Canada.

Bearing in mind the concern expressed by many members of the House over many months about the Statistics Canada survey of family expenditures which may amount to a major imposition on one in every 25 Canadian families, has the hon. gentleman taken any action to ascertain whether this survey is necessary, fair and reasonable?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Let me first of all correct some false impressions. The survey is not exclusively directed to those receiving family allowances. It is directed to one in every 550 people in the labour force, not one in 25. It is intended to cover some 13,000 or 14,000 households. About 14 surveys of this type have been carried out by Statistics Canada throughout the years. It is absolutely necessary, in order to keep in balance the consumer price index upon which so many people in industry, and elsewhere, depend.

• (1500)

I have advised Statistics Canada people not to press hard on anyone who does not want to answer, but merely to let such people be dropped from the list. I have been assured that that is the procedure Statistics Canada has employed. Statistics Canada is getting about an 80 per cent response, with which Statistics Canada is very satisfied.

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EMPLOYMENT**FUNDING OF OUTREACH PROGRAM**

Mr. Yuri Shymko (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. My question is with regard to public petitions to reconsider the recent decision by the regional review committee to stop further funding for the Outreach program in Parkdale, which now has the third highest rate of unemployment of the 23 ridings in Toronto. Could the minister state—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Unless the hon. member distinguishes his question very quickly, I think he is caught in the same restriction I mentioned earlier in the question period to one of his colleagues. The hon. member for Nickel Belt.

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INDUSTRY**LOSS OF JOBS IN CANADA DUE TO DECISIONS OF FOREIGN PARENT CORPORATIONS**

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that the recent decision by National Steel Corporation of the United States to close the Moose Mountain iron ore mine in Capreol, Ontario, will result in the loss of some 250 jobs, and in view of reports indicating that the Canadian steel industry is so busy it cannot even meet the orders it is getting, can the minister explain to the House what steps his department has taken to make sure that the decision which has been made in the boardrooms of a foreign company does not affect these 250 jobs?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the Moose Mountain mine at Capreol is, indeed, owned by the National Steel Corporation of the United States. That mine was producing about 650,000 tons of pelleted iron ore per year. In 1977, the National Steel Corporation of the United States increased production at its iron ore mine in the United States from something a little over two million tons of pelleted iron ore to something over five million tons.

That was a tremendous increase in production in the United States. That created a situation in which the 650,000 tons from Canada were not needed. My officials have met with the management of the mine and will be meeting shortly with