

[Translation]

### RAILWAY TRANSPORT

**Mr. Allan Koury (Hochelaga—Maisonneuve):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. I will repeat in the House the questions I put to the Minister of Transport in a letter dated September 11.

Will the Minister of Transport announce a moratorium on all decisions affecting the railway transportation industry, until such time as the royal commission of inquiry has tabled its recommendations and these have been evaluated by Parliament? Will the Minister of Transport send one or several representatives to the joint meeting on the railway industry, as he was invited to do last summer by Quebec Minister Daniel Johnson?

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I will repeat for the benefit of the hon. member what I said today to the Leader of the Opposition and others, which is that the Department of Transport does not intend to put a moratorium on the cutbacks at VIA Rail. However, this morning I had a meeting with the *Fédération des travailleurs du Québec*. I think it was a very good meeting, and I can give Mr. Fernand Daoust the assurance that the Government of Canada will contribute \$120,000 to this joint endeavour in Montreal, more specifically concerned with the future of railway transportation, always bearing in mind that the decision on VIA will remain as announced on October 4.

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### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

#### PETITIONS

##### GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to several petitions.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

### Routine Proceedings

**Mr. Speaker:** Statements by Ministers. The hon. member for South West Nova on a point of order.

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[Translation]

### POINT OF ORDER

#### SITUATION CONCERNING LOBSTER

**Ms. Coline Campbell (South West Nova):** Mr. Speaker, last week before the Prime Minister's meeting in Washington, he said in the House that he would raise the lobster issue again. Does the Prime Minister intend to make a speech or statement in the House on his meeting with the president in Washington about the lobster question?

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has risen on a point of order under the rubric Statements by Ministers. It most definitely is a question. The minister may wish to respond, but he is not obligated to do so.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am happy to tell my hon. friend that further to our exchange in the House the other day the Secretary of State for External Affairs and I raised this concern about lobsters directly with the President of the United States and the Secretary of State. We hope for an early answer.

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[Translation]

### INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FRENCH-SPEAKING PARLIAMENTARIANS

#### PRESENTATION OF 4TH REPORT OF CANADIAN SECTION

**Mr. Charles DeBlois (Montmorency—Orléans):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 34, I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the fourth report on the activities of the Canadian section of the International Association of French-speaking Parliamentarians. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the staff that helped prepare this report.

[Editor's note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]