

*Oral Questions***CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION****CANCELLATION OF "NEIGHBOURLY NEWS FROM THE PRAIRIES" PROGRAM**

**Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris):** Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that a CBC radio program with a 43-year tradition of serving rural residents in Saskatchewan and Manitoba has been terminated by the CBC in Winnipeg. The last broadcast of "Neighbourly News from the Prairies" will be heard this coming Sunday. This has happened despite the fact that the Agricultural and Food Advisory Committee to the CBC asked that the broadcast be continued; this despite the CBC's supposed commitment to its rural listeners, and this despite the fact that the decision is in direct opposition to the wishes of the thousands of rural listeners who have become accustomed to the uniquely country flavour of the weekly news broadcast.

The decision has prompted about 200 phone calls of protest to the program's host, who resides in my constituency of Brandon-Souris. Numerous weekly newspapers, including those in Boissevain, Minnedosa, Steinbach and Altona, and dailies in Brandon and Winnipeg have criticized this callous decision. This decision shows a lack of understanding of the needs and attitudes of rural listeners in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Similar neighbourly news programs are carried by the CBC in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes, and the program should also be continued in the Manitoba/Saskatchewan region.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

**Madam Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Annapolis Valley-Hants.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport who, I am informed, is to be in the House. I would therefore like to stand down and try to catch your eye later.

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**INDUSTRY****MAISLIN TRANSPORT LTD.—STATUS OF GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE**

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, who is right behind the curtain there, if he would come into the House. I hate to bring the schoolboys back into the classroom.

My question relates to the Maislin bail-out of last summer. What is the current status of the \$34 million guarantee which the Government extended to Maislin last year? Has the Government been called upon to honour this guarantee? And, if not, when does the Government expect this to occur, and by how much?

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, the company applied for, I believe it is called a Section 11(1) under the United States bankruptcy laws, which puts the whole situation in limbo for about 90 days. There has been no call on the guarantee by the Government of Canada of \$34 million at the present time.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Not yet.

**Mr. Wilson:** That gives us no indication as to whether there will be any money called on. I would appreciate it if the Minister would make it clear in his answer to the next question.

**GOVERNMENT POLICY**

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Madam Speaker, it is clear that the Maislin bail-out has been a total disaster. The Conservative Party has opposed this right from the start, from before the bail-out was provided. It is abundantly clear that this has been a major policy mistake which was motivated by clear, partisan, political motivations. Since the Minister said shortly after his appointment to his ministry that there would be no more bail-outs of a similar nature, does this clearly imply that he believes now that the bail-out was a major policy error?

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Madam Speaker, first of all I reject totally the premise of the Hon. Member's question—

**Mr. Wilson:** The officials were against it.

**Mr. Lumley:** —in terms of the political implications of Maislin. Maislin was Canada's largest international common carrier. There were 2,000 Canadian jobs at stake. I realize that is not important to Hon. Members in the Conservative Party—

**Mr. McDermid:** Most of them in the United States.

**Mr. Lumley:** —but we felt they were very important at the time. Second, if I recall the questions from the Hon. Member's colleagues in the Conservative Party yesterday, they were asking me to bail out the White Farm Equipment company. Make up your minds over there. Do you want us to help these companies out, or do you not?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!