

of those lines. Within a matter of months of that we also had before cabinet, and approved, a \$100 million program for rebuilding rail lines, again for the first time in many decades. I think those are the important forms of action which are really needed.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will extend the question period by a moment or two to recognize two or three hon. members who have been attempting to be recognized. However, before I can go on, I will have to ask the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar to withdraw the remarks he just made about the Prime Minister.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw them, of course. I did not mean to use the word "cowardly". Probably the word "brave" would have been more appropriate.

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AIR TRANSPORT

INDEPENDENT BOARD TO INVESTIGATE MATTERS OF AIR SAFETY

Mr. Paul E. McRae (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport. It is supplementary to several other questions, but specifically to the question asked by the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East regarding the coroner's remarks after the unfortunate tragedy at Cranbrook.

My question also concerns a series of problems which arose in northern Ontario regarding air safety and the in-house report which was made at that particular time. Following a question along this line, the minister mentioned that he was considering an independent board. I would like to ask the minister if he is considering that that board not only investigate accidents but also take responsibility for all safety, as is done in the United States.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the commission is intended essentially to be the independent review board. Indeed, the very argument in favour of the independent board is that the investigation into the situation be in the hands of someone other than the parties who have the responsibility for assuring that things are being done safely, in order that there not be an apparent conflict between them. I do not, therefore, contemplate transferring the responsibility for safety from its present location within the Department of Transport, but I will want at an early date to have an independent board.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

PUBLIC SERVICE LABOUR DISPUTE—STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern

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Development. In view of the fact that bargaining has broken off between the Public Service Association of the Northwest Territories and the employer, which happens to be the minister's department, is the minister aware of the apparent breach of the undertaking given by the employer, and that the employer has attempted directly to change certain terms and conditions of employment and may now be moving to change indirectly the housing rental rates and rental conditions applicable to members of the Public Service Association? I wonder if the minister can report anything about this matter to the House.

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): I am afraid I cannot, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member has just brought it to my attention, but I would be pleased to look into it and get back to him later today.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH MANITOBA

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the development agreement the minister has signed with the government of the province of Manitoba which concentrates primarily on the development of small business in that province as well as tourism, I would like to ask the minister whether he is now in a position to give a statement as to the feasibility, from his point of view, of a special ARDA program for southeastern Manitoba similar to what was done in the Interlake starting in 1961.

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am not entirely aware of the impact that the signing of such an agreement might have but I am quite prepared to raise the question with my officials and to look at whether such an agreement with the government of Manitoba would be workable. I shall consider the hon. member's question.

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● (1502)

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

MOTOR VEHICLES NOT MEETING POLLUTION STANDARDS

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, last week after putting questions to the Minister of Transport we found that because we in this country do not have laws as they do in the United States obliging the recall of unsafe cars, cars which are being recalled in the United States are not being recalled in Canada.