

Dear Mr. Pepin:

Re: SOR/77-869, Railway Passenger Services—Adjustment Assistance Regulations
 SOR/78-286, Railway Passenger Services Contract Regulations
 SOR/78-287, Schedule D to the Financial Administration Act, amendment Jan. 12, 1981

Thank you for your letter of 19th August 1980 which the Committee considered at its meeting of 30th October.

We were instructed to ask whether the Cabinet decision to which you referred has been taken and when you will respond to the Committee's position on the need for the introduction of a VIA Rail Canada Bill.

Yours sincerely,

John M. Godfrey,
 Perrin Beatty,
 Joint Chairmen.

January 12, 1981

The Honourable John M. Godfrey and
 The Honourable Perrin Beatty, P.C., M.P.,
 Joint Chairmen,
 Standing Joint Committee of the Senate and House of
 Commons on Regulations and other Statutory Instruments,
 c/o The Senate,
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1A 0A4

Dear Sirs:

I refer to your letter dated November 6 in which you questioned the status of the Cabinet decision pertaining to rail passenger services and the impact such a decision would have on the introduction of a VIA Rail Canada Bill.

The Cabinet has not as yet considered the submission to which I referred in previous correspondence. I expect the matter to be discussed early in the new year. Once a decision has been reached, I will advise your Committee on the requirement for a VIA Rail Canada Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Luc Pepin

March 19, 1981

The Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin, P.C., M.P.,
 Minister of Transport,
 Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Pepin:

Re: SOR/77-869, Railway Passenger Services Adjustment Assistance Regulations
 SOR/78-286, Railway Passenger Services Contract Regulations
 SOR/78-287, Schedule D to the Financial Administration Act, amendment

Your letter of 12th January last was before the Committee on 12th instant together with SOR/81-25 which extended the effective date of the Railway Passenger Services Adjustment Assistance Regulations to December 31, 1983.

The Committee wishes to have some definite time frame within which it can work and we are instructed to ask once again for some definite if not precise date by which a decision whether or not to proceed with a VIA Rail Canada Bill will be taken. Mindful of the fact that its position in this matter has been in suspense as it were since just before the March 1979 dissolution the Committee has adopted a time limit of 6 May 1981 on the decision to place a special report before both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

John M. Godfrey,
 Perrin Beatty,
 Joint Chairmen.

May 7, 1981

The Honourable John M. Godfrey, Q.C.
 Joint Chairman
 Standing Joint Committee of the Senate and House of
 Commons on Regulations & other Statutory Instruments
 The Senate
 Room 477-S
 Ottawa, K1A 0A4
 Dear Senator Godfrey,

Thank you for your letter of March 19, 1981, in which you seek a definite date for a decision on whether there is a requirement for a VIA Rail Canada Bill.

At present, there does not appear to be an immediate requirement for a VIA Rail Canada Act. Once the existing legislative framework has been sufficiently tested, it should be possible to establish whether a constituent act is definitely needed. I regret to inform you that, at this time, a decision on the matter is not possible.

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Luc Pepin

May 21, 1981

The Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin, P.C., M.P.,
 Minister of Transport,
 House of Commons,
 Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Pepin:

Re: SOR/77-869, Railway Passenger Services Adjustment Assistance Regulations
 SOR/78-286, Railway Passenger Services Contract Regulations
 SOR/78-287, Schedule D to the Financial Administration Act, amendment

The Committee considered your letter of 7th instant on Thursday last.

The Committee is of the view that there is an immediate requirement for a VIA Rail Canada Act and that the existing legislative framework, consisting of votes in Appropriation Acts which may not even support all the Regulations already