

## PREMIER'S STATEMENT

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that a large part of the reason for the uncertainty is that yesterday in Newfoundland a statement was made by the Minister confirming that negotiations are ongoing, and an absolute denial was made by the Premier of Newfoundland that negotiations actually exist? Can the Minister tell us why that very large contradiction exists between the statement of the Minister, the Hon. Member for St. John's West, and the denial by Premier of Newfoundland? Newfoundlanders have suffered long enough from an uncertainty caused, I suspect, by confederation-building in Newfoundland at this time.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, it is perhaps a matter of semantics. There have been discussions, and perhaps they could be referred to as negotiations, but I can confirm to the Hon. Member that there have been discussions. Those discussions will continue until such time as an agreement can be reached more or less in principle, after which time we will set out to consult with the people of Newfoundland, the communities, and particularly the workers involved.

\* \* \*

● (1130)

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

## OWNERSHIP OF IMASCO

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Supply and Services, Statistics Canada, for which he is responsible, carefully reviews company structures and shareholdings to determine which are foreign controlled. Will the Minister confirm that Statistics Canada, in the latest information under CALURA, which I have here, considers Imasco a foreign-controlled company under the effective control of the U.K. owned British American Tobacco Company?

**Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, I have not read that particular report, but I would be happy to review it and reply to my hon. friend.

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the Minister might be a bit more on top of his Ministry.

## APPROVAL OF GENSTAR TAKEOVER

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, I will direct my supplementary question to the Minister responsible for financial institutions. In view of the fact that Imasco is classified as foreign-controlled, has the Minister not in fact approved a back-door increase in foreign control of our financial institutions, something which the country considers quite unacceptable in the banking sector?

## Oral Questions

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. colleague to my right is very much on top of his Ministry.

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

**Mrs. McDougall:** Imasco is classified as a Canadian company under FIRA and Investment Canada. BAT in Britain is a broadly-held company which does not have control of Imasco's board, even though it is a large shareholder. The board of directors is totally Canadian controlled, and will continue to be so.

\* \* \*

## RAILWAYS

## FUTURE OF NEWFOUNDLAND RAILWAY

**Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, the federal Minister of Transport is being publicly contradicted by the provincial Minister of Transport in Newfoundland, and the federal Minister of Justice, representing Newfoundland, is being publicly contradicted by the Premier of Newfoundland with regard to the future of the Newfoundland Railway. I will direct my question to the Minister of Transport. When are these Governments going to stop playing peek-a-boo with each other and the people of Newfoundland so that the people of Newfoundland will know what is being discussed?

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

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member's rhetoric is a bunch of nonsense, and my previous answer stands.

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

## POLL RESULTS

**Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, in an interview in Newfoundland last night the Minister of Transport said: "According to our polls, the Newfoundland people consider the highway as the most important mode of transportation", and that he was going to Cabinet with his proposal.

Is the Minister so naive as to believe that the people's belief that the highway is the most important mode will give justification for doing away with the railway? Through that reasoning the railway could be done away with right across the country. Is that what the Minister wants to do?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I am not one-tenth as naive as the Hon. Member who just spoke.