

Oral Questions

were necessarily reducing their budgets. I said that the total dollar expenditure is somewhat increased but because costs are going up the number of days of training is slightly reduced.

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TRANSPORT

PROPOSED LIGHT RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM FOR TORONTO—
AVAILABILITY OF CNR AND CPR RIGHTS OF WAY AT
NOMINAL COST

Mr. John Harney (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport who may appreciate the change of subject from box-cars to street cars. In view of the fact that the Metro Toronto transportation plan review recommends a light rapid transit system for eastern Metro Toronto, using rights of way of the CNR and the CPR, will the minister state whether he intends to instruct the railways to bend all efforts to make these rights of way available for light urban rapid transit at nominal cost?

● (1200)

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we will soon—the date may be set sometime next week—meet representatives of the Ontario government to study those problems, including the report I tabled in the House a few days ago. In fact, I am not aware of the formal request the hon. member is referring to.

[English]

PROPOSED LIGHT RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM FOR TORONTO—
POSSIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTION OF ROLLING STOCK IN
CANADA

Mr. John Harney (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether his department has been making plans to provide for the construction in Canada of the rolling stock which will be used in such light urban rapid transit systems, considering the fact that such stock is now only available in the United States and its purchase would involve an outlay of tens of millions of dollars in Canadian funds?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter we are studying closely. No decision has yet been made.

We are attempting to set up a general policy which will include not only the city of Toronto but all major centres in Canada.

[Mr. Andras.]

COMMUNICATIONS

POLICY OF DEPARTMENT IN LIGHT OF STATEMENT BY
QUEBEC MINISTER

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Communications.

In view of the recent statement by the Quebec Minister of Communications that the essence of the Confederation itself is at stake as concerns a record such as that of communications, that the basic issue concerns the conflicting powers of the provinces and the federal government, and that in order to progress we must work outside the federal concept, does the hon. minister believe that it is now time to review the policy of his department on this matter?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, the opinions of the Quebec Minister of Communications are his own and I do not share them.

I believe that they reflect an alarmist attitude which does not correspond to reality.

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[English]

IMMIGRATION

POSSIBILITY OF RESCINDING DEPORTATION ORDER AGAINST
MRS. DOROTHY HERTZBERG—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. It concerns a deportation order served on a former Canadian citizen, a native-born Newfoundlander, Mrs. Dorothy Hertzberg, while an inmate in the mental institution in St. John's, Newfoundland. Can the minister tell the House if that deportation order has been withdrawn and, if so, for what period?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this kind of case is a very unhappy situation, and I am aware of it. I do not like the responsibility it places upon us. I think that technically there was no question that she was in violation of the Immigration Act as it stands now, and that means there was no jurisdiction to change the deportation order or to withdraw it. Having said that, however, and as I have said publicly, I intend to do everything in my power to try to alleviate, in some fashion but within the law, the distress that this causes.

Mr. Carter: Would the minister give the House the assurance that this lady will not be deported while a patient at the mental institution in which she is now confined?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I cannot meet my responsibility and give a guarantee that the deportation order will not be carried out because the law requires me to see that it is carried out. We are, however, in contact and liaison with the medical advisers and we certainly do not intend to precipitate anything that would cause greater difficulties, but it is my responsibility to carry out the deportation order.