

*Oral Questions***SHIPPING****ESTABLISHMENT OF CANADIAN DEEP SEA FLEET—CHANGES IN TAX LAW**

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, I had a question or two for the Minister of State (Transport), but in his absence, the absence of the Minister of Transport, the parliamentary secretary and the Prime Minister, I will direct my question to the Minister of Finance.

An hon. Member: Where are they?

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): I want to ask about the government's intention of establishing a Canadian deep sea fleet which will require changes in Canadian tax law. Is the government making any progress on this announced policy with regard to a Canadian deep sea fleet? When, specifically, can we expect a government announcement on this policy?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of some complexity, as hon. members opposite will surely know in view of the fact that they were in government for 16 years and did nothing to help the Canadian deep sea fleet. There must be some reason for this past inaction which excuses them. Among the reasons are the complexities of the situation and the costs involved. These are being looked at now.

We are very much interested in expanding the Canadian deep sea fleet and helping the Canadian marine sector generally. So these policies will unfold during the coming months, just as we are interested in assisting in the fishery. When I look opposite and see all the absences opposite, I still do not mind getting up to answer the hon. member's questions even though there are two or three absent over on this side.

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, I am quite aware of the complexities in the policy with regard to the establishment of a deep sea fleet, but the government now has been in power for six months and it is time that we started getting some answers.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): My supplementary question is: What type of subsidy is the government prepared to offer the shipping industry to encourage a Canadian flag-carrying fleet, and what is the estimated cost to the federal treasury?

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, I could say that we are prepared to offer them the very same subsidies which hon. gentlemen opposite offered them. But obviously it would not be a solution to their problems, because their problems developed over the last 16 years in particular. That is being dealt with now. When the program is ready, it will be announced by the Minister of Transport.

[Mr. MacKay.]

I might also say, in reply, that my colleague, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, pointed out the other day that there were four licences for freezer-trawlers given out by the hon. gentleman's administration before May 22, for which they have been blaming the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans for the last six months. They should get their facts straight when they ask questions.

An hon. Member: Answer the question.

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): That is a red herring.

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TRANSPORT**RAIL CARRIAGE OF HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS—SAFETY MEASURES**

Mr. Robert Bockstael (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, my question is one dealing with transport, but I should like to address it to the President of the Privy Council and Minister of National Revenue. The recent railway accident in Mississauga spurred the government to promote public safety in the transportation of dangerous goods.

While Bill C-25 is being processed, we are concerned about the trains coming into Winnipeg, right through St. Boniface via CPR lines. These trains appear to be made up of an intermix of dangerous goods or dangerous products. In the interim, what steps is the government taking to ensure that the railways and the United States shippers are adhering to mandatory protective standards?

Hon. Walter Baker (President of the Privy Council and Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I assure the hon. member that that concern is shared. I know the concern is shared also by the Minister of Transport. I seem to recollect that in answer to a question last week he indicated that he would be giving—and I am sure he is giving—very serious consideration to matters which could be done in the interim pending the enactment of the transportation of dangerous goods act.

I should inform the hon. member that I believe there is reasonable agreement in the House, among the representatives of all groups and parties in the House of Commons, that the transportation of dangerous goods act will be referred to committee as quickly as possible so that we can expedite the examination of the kinds of problems the hon. member has brought quite properly to the attention of the House.

Mr. Bockstael: Mr. Speaker, similar trains travel through the city of Winnipeg, with the same concern. When will the government table its report on rail relocation versus the Sherbrook-McGregor overpass in the city of Winnipeg?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, that is a matter which has been of some concern for some time. I am sorry I cannot answer the hon. gentleman with respect to a