

would he be willing to table the report leading up to that decision?

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, if the member wishes to obtain a copy of the newly adopted policy, it will be a pleasure for me to provide him with one as it has already been made public.

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[English]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

SUGGESTED PRIVATIZATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport and arises out of responses he made to the hon. member for Vegreville last week. I could hardly believe my ears; it seems the Liberals have not learned anything from the lesson the Tories received about the wholesale opposition to the privatization of Petro-Canada.

In view of the fact taxpayers have invested billions of dollars in Canadian National over the years, footed the bill year after year for their losses, and since the CNR finally paid a \$41 million dividend to the taxpayers of Canada last year, is the minister telling us, in his response to the hon. member for Vegreville, that the government is seriously considering allowing the privatizing of the CNR?

I would also like to ask the minister why the taxpayers should not continue to receive dividends from the profits which are finally being made by Canadian National, instead of going to private investors? Will he categorically reject this nonsense of privatizing Canadian National?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I also read the press clipping on that subject and am still wondering how the author came to that conclusion. The other day I emphasized the fact that CN would be in need of substantial investments in the coming years for all kinds of worth-while purposes and that money will have to be found. I indicated one of the ways in which it could be done was by way of proper compensation for the transportation of grain in western Canada. Obviously there are other methods, such as loans and investments. But these are government decisions and there is no intention on our part to privatize CN.

Mr. Benjamin: If the minister would implement Mr. Justice Hall's recommendations regarding the Crow rate, the CNR would have nothing to complain about.

Mr. Lalonde: And all the others, too.

Mr. Benjamin: Most of the others have been implemented. The minister should read it.

I would like to ask the minister if instead of considering this nonsense of privatization of a corporation which the taxpayers have paid for over and over again, would he suggest to his

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colleagues, to this House and to the country, adopting policies, similar attitudes and actions of industrialized nations all over the world and do exactly the opposite? Will the government move into the twentieth century by integrating Canadian National with Canadian Pacific to form a unified, publicly-owned utility, instead of taking it back to the nineteenth century of the railroad barons?

Mr. Pepin: Madam Speaker, this idea is not a new one, it has been suggested a number of times. It is not government policy at this time.

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THE CONSTITUTION

PROTECTION FOR DISABLED IN PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Mr. Peter Lang (Kitchener): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that many persons with disabilities are presently suffering from discrimination and have voiced their desire to be protected in any new constitution, I would like to ask the Prime Minister if non-discrimination rights for persons with disabilities could be incorporated by amendment into the proposed constitution act of 1980?

An hon. Member: And women?

An hon. Member: And natives?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I hear, along with this constructive suggestion from the member for Kitchener, members of the official opposition saying we should also include other factors in this bill of rights, and they have suggested women and natives. I am very happy that at last we have the support of the Tory party for our action.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: I am grateful to the member from Kitchener for having at last brought forth this honest support of our action in protecting the basic rights of Canadians. I am prepared to examine any amendments which can improve the status of the resolution before the House. In some cases I have indicated it would be useful to carry on the discussion so that in the second phase of negotiations, once we have a constitution in Canada, amendable in Canada, we could indeed improve in many ways the bill of rights, including the way suggested by the hon. member from Kitchener.

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NORTHERN PIPELINES

Q AND M—INQUIRY RESPECTING EXTENSION TO MARITIME PROVINCES

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and