



CANADA

House of Commons Debates

THE HONOURABLE JOE VOLPE, P.C., M.P.
QUESTION PERIOD: QUESTION CONCERNING HIGH SPEED RAIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009

Mr. Speaker, the government has billions of dollars right now to create jobs, yet to date there are no jobs and no projects. There is, meanwhile, one legacy project with great economic spinoffs, a high-speed train from Quebec to Windsor, that cries out for action. It would create 127,000 jobs in just the construction phase alone, according to several of the dozen feasibility studies that have been conducted so far.

Why not get on the job and issue a request for proposals from the private sector and get this project on track?

Supplemental Question

Mr. Speaker, I guess that means there is no political will to do anything.

Yet in France, Germany, Spain, Italy, China, and now even Britain and the United States, they are building the future with Canadian high-speed train technology. They have experience and recognize the economic and environmental benefits of high-speed trains. Their projects are classified as nation builders.

Today in Canada we have the money, we have the expertise, but the government lacks the political will. What is it about nation building that so intimidates the government?