

Is it true, as newspapers indicate, that the request was dismissed in order to avoid political conflicts between Ottawa and Québec, and that the real interest of Canadians in this field have been ignored?

[English]

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, it was not especially related to Quebec; it is the general policy of the Canadian government that the present distribution of shares, 45 per cent to the federal government and 55 per cent in the hands of the private corporations, should not be disturbed.

\* \* \*

### HOUSING

#### PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH PROVINCES TO HAVE ONE BODY RESPONSIBLE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the minister of state responsible for housing following his answer to the leader of the NDP. As housing starts are down 24 per cent, will the minister now explore with officials of provincial corporations responsible for housing and officials of the CMHC the idea of obtaining a federal-provincial agreement under which one body would pour money into housing, rather than having the conflict that exists between provincial and federal bodies, always used as an excuse by the minister responsible for housing in this House?

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think I have used that as an excuse. I do look for co-operation and, indeed, I obtain it. We have agreements and we hold meetings with the provinces, and the fact that we will have something like 255,000 housing completions this year is an indication of that co-operation and success in our programs.

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

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to follow up on that as the minister did not answer my question. I asked first of all whether he had or would explore the idea suggested by the Premier of Ontario of preparing an agreement between federal and provincial bodies in order that we might have one housing body responsible for housing. I asked that question in view of the fact that every construction company and construction worker knows that housing starts are down in this country. There is no point in looking at last year when we are living in 1974.

**Mr. Danson:** Mr. Speaker, we are living in 1974 and planning for 1975. Certainly, I would explore any positive avenue which would help improve the situation to the greatest possible extent. I am not convinced that having one vehicle in each province is the only answer. I think coordination of programs is extremely important. I am sure the hon. gentleman will agree that it is very important when funds at one level are being spent by another that there be a high degree of accountability and a recognition of where these funds come from, particularly for the governments that have to provide them.

### Oral Questions

#### AIR TRANSPORT

#### STUDY ON COMPETITION BETWEEN CARRIERS IN MARITIMES—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON APPLICATION OF CP AIR

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, last March a series of air transport hearings were held in the Atlantic area dealing in part with competition and the entry of CP Air into that region. Could the Minister of Transport now indicate the status of the report, what stage it has reached and when he expects to hear from the air transport committee as to its conclusion reached following these hearings and studies?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I know that the committee held very fruitful meetings with the ministers of the governments as well as with other groups in the Maritimes, and are now on the way toward improving services to the Maritimes. I hope that the hon. gentleman will be satisfied with the work that has been done.

**Mr. Forrestall:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister would give an answer to my more direct question? Is it the intention of the government to allow CP Air to operate between Montreal and Halifax and/or Halifax, Montreal and points west?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, there is a part of the question I missed for obvious reasons. Is the hon. gentleman referring to one particular airline?

**Mr. Forrestall:** Yes, I was referring to CP Air.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Surely, the hon. member will allow me not to give an answer at this moment.

\* \* \*

### TRANSPORT

#### POSSIBLE ABOLITION OF CROWNSNEST PASS FREIGHT RATE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I know that we can always get a clear and definite answer from the Minister of Transport. In view of the aroused public opinion in the prairie provinces over the suggestion that the Crownsnest Pass rates are to be abolished, now that the minister is here again may I ask whether he can give the assurance that such is not the case?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I know that the right hon. gentleman posed exactly the same question over six months ago.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That's right.

**Mr. Woolliams:** And you gave the same answer.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** If my memory serves me well, the way he put it then was that if ever we touched the Crownsnest Pass rates it would be worse than an atomic bomb exploding in the west.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That's right, that's what I said.