

[Translation]

HARBOURS

STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS RESPECTING MONTREAL

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works a question resulting from his statement as reported in this morning's papers and which I consider very detrimental to the best interests of the port of Montreal.

In order to clarify the situation, will the minister make a full statement in the House today or in the next few days so that hon. members be informed of the measures which the government is considering in this area?

[English]

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I was speaking in the Maritimes—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: That is no excuse.

Mr. Laing: —when I made reference to—

An hon. Member: Why didn't you go to Assiniboia?

Mr. Laing: —a report in the possession of my department. I never at any time made any reference to the port of Montreal, directly, indirectly or in any way whatsoever. If it is the desire of the media and other organizations to editorialize on the basis of a statement I made, that is their right, and of course they will have to take the responsibility in doing so.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the hon. member for Sainte-Marie want to put a supplementary question?

Mr. Valade: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Could the Minister of Public Works table the statement he made in Newfoundland and have it published as an appendix to today's *Hansard*?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

[Translation]

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Saint-Marie on a point of order.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, with deference to the Chair, I believe the minister was about to give a reply when you gave the floor to the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

Inquiries of the Ministry

MONTREAL—PRIORITY IN DEVELOPMENT OF PORTS POLICY

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Would the minister assure the House that he will not give priority to other ports over the port of Montreal in the development of our ports policy?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Laprairie.

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Laprairie on a supplementary and will recognize the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster in a moment, also on a supplementary.

Mr. Ian Watson (Laprairie): Can the minister tell us whether the report to which he is said to have referred was prepared by his department alone or in collaboration with the Department of Transport?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, I suggest to the hon. member that the question as asked is not in order. I would think that the question originally asked by the hon. member for Sainte-Marie was in order. Would the hon. member kindly resume his seat? I suggest to the hon. member and to all hon. members that the only way in which hon. members can ask questions about a statement made outside the House is, of course, the traditional and well-known way, by inquiring whether what was said by a minister outside the House represents government policy. Hon. members may, of course, refer to the substance of the matter without necessarily alluding to the speech made outside the House. In this light the question originally asked was in order, but the supplementary asked by the hon. member for Laprairie is not in order from a procedural point of view.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Having heard the minister deal with the port of Montreal and knowing he loves all the ports of the Maritimes equally as much and is fearlessly returning there this week may I ask whether he will assure the House that all ports in the Maritimes will be treated equally in this matter?

PRINCE RUPERT—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. When will he be in a position to make an announcement about the most important west coast port and its development, namely, Prince Rupert?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I hope an announcement or some progress report can be made within a matter of weeks. I have today dispatched a letter to the premier of British Columbia inviting him to meet with me to discuss this matter at a date of his choosing.