

*Oral Questions*

But I will take his representation into consideration and look into the matter on his behalf.

**Mr. McMillan:** Madam Speaker, my supplementary is also directed to the President of the Treasury Board, alias "the pork-barrel".

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. McMillan:** The site in Charlottetown favoured by the federal government for the Department of Veterans Affairs would cost the treasury over half a million dollars more than the site favoured by the province of Prince Edward Island. The federal government's choice of site would cause huge traffic and parking problems in the city of Charlottetown, according to the mayor of that city.

● (1430)

Will the minister confirm that the real reason for the change of site was pressure from a small group of the city's businessmen who own much of the real estate near the proposed central core site, who are bagmen for the minister's party—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. McMillan:** —and who therefore stand to gain from the change of site, in terms of real estate, against the public interest?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** Answer that question.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. Will the hon. member now formulate a very short question?

**Mr. McMillan:** Will the minister confirm to the House, and through this House to the people of Prince Edward Island, that the real reason for the change of site by the Department of Veterans Affairs from the waterfront in Charlottetown to the central core of the city was not cost or any other such consideration but, rather, favouritism toward bagmen of his own party on Prince Edward Island?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** Another pork-barreller.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, I should like to take this opportunity to advise you, the hon. member and all hon. members of the House that it was on the advice of my ministry's officials that the site selection, on the basis of cost implications and the total desirability of the site location, was made.

Indeed, it was the advice of my department's officials and my advice to the minister of the user department that those were the reasons—which are contrary to the conclusions, the information and allegations given to us by the hon. member—

the site was chosen. It was the least expensive site that was chosen, and it was a better site for the people in the area—

**Some hon. Members:** That is not true.

**Mr. Cosgrove:** —and it is one that the officials say is better in view of all these qualifications.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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**HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES****CALL FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO TESTING OF TOXIC CHEMICALS IN MANITOBA**

**Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. In light of the fact that it has now been confirmed that not only the citizens of Winnipeg, but also the citizens of the Stony Mountain area in Manitoba were the unwitting guinea-pigs for chemical and biological warfare testing in June of 1953, in light of the fact that civic officials in Winnipeg were misled concerning the purpose of aerosol testing and, further, in light of the fact that the chemical compound used in the testing is indeed harmful to health, will the Prime Minister assure the House that his government will establish a full-scale public inquiry into the nature and extent of chemical and biological warfare testing in Canada?

**Mrs. Ursula Appolloni (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence):** Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for having raised this matter again, thus giving me a chance to assure him and all members of the House that the Department of National Defence, as promised, is indeed taking a careful and thorough look at this whole matter. However, I should like also to caution the hon. member and all members of the House against paying undue attention to sensational reporting, the effects of which can only cause needless and cruel fear.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Sargeant:** I will try to direct my next question to the right hon. Prime Minister. The important issue here is not whether the chemical and biological warfare tests took place unbeknown to the public in 1953, but whether such tests are still being carried out in secret. I should like to repeat my question.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Sargeant:** Would the Prime Minister tell us when the last test took place, and when and where other such tests were carried out?

**Mrs. Appolloni:** Madam Speaker, may I answer this question also? Far from being held in secret, it now appears that there were at least two reports of those tests at the same time, one of which was just to ask about the feasibility of the reports