

## SPORTS

INQUIRY AS TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL GRANT FOR  
COMMONWEALTH GAMES TO BE HELD IN EDMONTON

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Does the minister plan to be in Edmonton next week to make the announcement about the federal government contribution to the Commonwealth games? If not, why not?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I shall have the pleasure to attend a welfare ministers' conference in Edmonton around mid-February, but I do not feel that this would be a proper occasion for such an announcement. Moreover, following an investigation I have made, I have ascertained that the allegation the hon. member made recently in the House concerning a statement attributed to a former federal minister from Alberta appears to be totally unfounded.

[Later:]

[English]

**Mr. Paproski:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I do not usually do this, but my earphone was not working when the minister answered. I could not understand the minister because he was speaking a little too fast and my French is not that good.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Mr. Speaker, do I understand that I should repeat the answer?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. If the hon. member did not hear the reply, I am not sure whether it is in order to invite the minister to repeat the answer. However, perhaps he might do so quickly.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lalonde:** Mr. Speaker, I said that I would be present in Edmonton around mid-February to attend a conference of welfare ministers, but that this conference would not be the proper occasion for a statement concerning a possible financial contribution from the federal government to the Commonwealth Games and that, at the same time, I had inquired into the allegation the hon. member had made concerning a statement attributed to a former minister of the government in respect of this assistance. As far as I could ascertain, his allegation was groundless.

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[English]

## TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR ACTION TO PREVENT RAILWAY FREIGHT RATE  
INCREASE ON STEEL SHIPPED TO WESTERN CANADA

**Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, may I today ask the question I asked yesterday of the hon. member for St. Boniface, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport. It relates to the increase in freight rates for steel shipped from eastern Canada to the port of Vancouver. Is the minister aware that both of the large Canadian railways have expressed the intention to

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increase freight rates on steel by up to 33 per cent between Hamilton and Vancouver? What action does he contemplate to stop this increase?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that the two railways filed new rates for the transportation of steel between different points in Canada, between Hamilton and Vancouver, between Hamilton and Yorkton, Calgary, and Winnipeg. The increase in most cases is three, four or five per cent. There are only a few cases in British Columbia where it is 30 per cent.

[Later:]

**Mr. Oberle:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport if he has abandoned the commitment he gave at the Western Economic Opportunities Conference regarding freight rate freeze to western Canada? I would also ask him if he is aware that there have been five increases in the price of steel and that industry in British Columbia will just not be able to cope with a 33 per cent increase?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, I mentioned 30 per cent as the top rate, and it touches only a few points. I have not changed the commitment I gave at the Western Economic Opportunities Conference. If the hon. member would like to read again the statement which was made in the House, he will see that it does not cover the rate to which he has referred.

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## SHIPPING

LEGALITY OF USE OF TANKERS OF ITALIAN AND LIBERIAN  
REGISTRY TO TRANSPORT OIL FROM VANCOUVER TO  
EASTERN CANADA

**Mr. Paddy Neale (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday I directed to the Minister of Transport through his parliamentary secretary, the hon. member for St. Boniface, two questions. Later I gave the questions to him in type-written form. I do not know whether the minister wants me to repeat the questions or whether he is prepared to answer the two questions I put to him yesterday.

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I take it those questions concern the two ships. It appears at the moment that those two ships were chartered, the first one, the *Barbagia*, on November 18, and the other one, the *Akritas*, on December 20. No other ship was available and suitable at the same time.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

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## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Bell:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the House leader regarding the business of the House. Realizing that we are living in very precarious times, may I ask him if can show some optimism with regard to House business for the next day or so which