

someone to take it as notice. Is the minister aware of the declared intention of the British Columbia Telephone Company to seek a major increase in telephone rates? In view of the possible inflationary effect, would the minister's department look into the matter or perhaps have the Prices and Incomes Commission do so?

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#### NATIONAL HARBOURS BOARD

##### POSSIBLE LEASE OF PROPERTY AT ENTRANCE TO STANLEY PARK, VANCOUVER—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and arises from an indication that he might have something further to say about the lease by the National Harbours Board of property at the entrance to Stanley Park in Vancouver, about which his assistant was questioned on January 28. Does the minister or the government intend to take any action with regard to the development of this land in the interest of the people in the area? Does the minister intend to act or let nature take its course?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I can answer on behalf of the National Harbours Board that as of Tuesday or Wednesday of last week a decision was made to seek a resolution of the initial question having to do with an appropriate and proper valuation for the land. It is my information that the National Harbours Board has now taken steps to have an independent assessment made of the land value.

As to the larger question of the future of the project, it is, of course, really one in the last analysis for settlement by the municipal government of the city of Vancouver, except for the fact that National Harbours Board leases always include the requirement that the lessee abide by the bylaws of the community in which the land is located. Whether it would be appropriate for the federal government to intervene at that level I suggest is open to question. I think the first job, which we have now undertaken, is to get an independent assessment of the land value.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I take it from the minister's reply that at the present time neither the National Harbours Board nor the minister intends to halt the sale or lease or to do anything other than to proceed with the sale or lease after satisfying themselves as to valuation?

**Mr. Jamieson:** No, Mr. Speaker. At the moment the position is, as I said, that we are seeking to obtain a fair market value. No decision beyond that point has been taken. I emphasize the basic question of whether in fact we have any authority to determine the use to which the land is put once it is sold.

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Could the minister give us the assurance, in view of participatory democracy, whatever that means, that before a firm decision is made in this regard interested bodies in Vancouver will

be able to make representations to the city council or that the department will bring pressure to bear so that the views of the public on this project can be expressed?

**Mr. Jamieson:** Whatever regard I may have, and it is great, for what the hon. member calls participatory democracy, I certainly do not have the hon. member's high regard for what he regards as government arrogance, and it would certainly be arrogance on my part to instruct the city council on who they are going to hear. That is entirely up to them.

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

**Mr. Jamieson:** In so far as representations to the government, to the National Harbours Board or to myself are concerned, these of course will be received, as many have been, and will be given full consideration.

**Mr. Nowlan:** I have a supplementary question for the minister. In view of the minister's answer—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway first and return to the hon. member in a moment.

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** I should like to ask the minister whether he can give us some idea of when the survey having to do with land valuation will be completed?

**Mr. Jamieson:** I fear I cannot do so at the moment but I will try to determine how long it will take and let the hon. member know.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Would the minister not agree with me that part of the problem in the whole project has been the arrogance of certain government officials, let alone—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. At this point the hon. member is arguing with the minister. I do not think that is a legitimate supplementary question.

**Mr. Nowlan:** I will rephrase it, Mr. Speaker. In view of some of the past proceedings with regard to this project and the different forms of arrogance that may have arisen, it would be healthy for democracy to have public participation in any final result. Certainly the minister, without being arrogant or dictatorial, could use his good offices with the city council of Vancouver to arrange for that type of public participation at meetings on what should be done in a matter of such importance to Vancouver.

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#### HOUSING

##### WAYS AND MEANS TO INCREASE STARTS AND PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT

**Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview):** I have a question for the minister in charge of housing. Since housing starts declined on a seasonally adjusted basis in the month of January to 182,900 from 254,700 in December, would the