

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Speaker:** That seems to me, with respect, an assertion, an allegation, and a serious one. I would ask the hon. member to keep in mind that if there is a charge to be made, it must be done in a proper way. The hon. member may have facts upon which he wants to ask the question, and that of course would be understandable, but that seems to be an allegation hanging in the air. I would ask the hon. member to rephrase his question.

**Mr. Dionne:** Mr. Speaker, I will ask the minister this question. Was the minister aware that the gentleman in question, Mr. Gallery, was, while in the position of acting chairman of CN, at the same time selling advertising to CN or buying advertising from them?

[Translation]

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I indeed read today the allegations in the *Globe and Mail* concerning Mr. Gallery and I have personally asked the corporation's chairman to report to me. I will decide what to do in due course depending on the report I will receive from him.

[English]

**Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my supplementary to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister take immediate action to bring about a full and complete investigation of what would appear to be a brazen and cynical conflict of interest to the benefit of a personal friend of the Prime Minister?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, as my colleague, the Minister of Transport pointed out to the hon. member in answer to his earlier question, he has asked for a full report on the issue which was brought to his attention as a result of *The Globe and Mail* article and he will report back to the House in due course. Of course, it would be premature, Mr. Speaker, and I know the hon. member to be a very fair-minded person, and inappropriate, to make any quick decisions without ascertaining all the facts.

**GOODS AND SERVICES TAX**

**Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Prime Minister, who will know that Albertans have led the way in this country in the fight against the GST. In fact, he will know that of the entire Conservative benches, the only two who have thus far publicly declared their opposition to the GST are Albertans.

In response to the remarks made by the finance minister in this House last week, several Albertans have asked to debate the Minister of Finance. They include Mr. Jerry Doyle, the MLA for West Yellowhead, Mr. Ace Cetinski and the Sherwood Park Chamber of Commerce, one of the Minister's own back-benchers, and probably thousands of Albertans who would just love the chance to discuss the GST with any minister of the government.

I ask the Deputy Prime Minister, will the government accept any of these offers to debate the GST in Alberta with Albertans?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, several members on this side of the House have debated the issue, have appeared on public platforms and have spoken to the issue. The Minister of State attended a mass rally in Calgary not too long ago. The hon. member for Athabasca has been there. The Minister of Finance indicated in an answer yesterday that he will be going all across the country, including the province of Alberta, to talk about the issue, to debate it, and to appear on phone-in shows.

If the hon. member has not seen a copy of the speech that was delivered by the Secretary of State for External Affairs a couple of weeks ago, I will see that he gets it because it was a very good speech that laid out the facts.

**Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, I deeply regret that apparently the government has turned down all of the requests handed to it from Albertans to debate the GST—not to read a speech, not to attend a meeting, but to debate the GST.

**Mr. Boyer:** How about the floor of the House of Commons? We will debate it here.