

*Oral Questions*

matter to the attention of the Minister of Justice who spoke so freely in Winnipeg and tell him that if there are any changes in the Crowsnest pass rates there will be an explosion in western Canada that will make a nuclear blast look like a firecracker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There appear to be a number of members who wish to ask supplementary questions on this subject. We will return to the question after the Chair has recognized the hon. member for Témiscamingue.

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[Translation]

**NORTHERN AFFAIRS****NORTHERN QUEBEC—REQUEST THAT ALLOWANCES TO CIVIL SERVANTS EQUAL THOSE PAID TO INDIANS**

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Since the Indians of James Bay, and particularly those of Fort George, receive from the federal government housing allowances and rather appropriate salaries, is the minister in a position to tell us why—and let it be noted that I appreciate what is being done for the Indians—the department does not grant to the white people of Fort George or the James Bay area the same advantages that are granted to the Indians, because, after all, they are full-fledged Canadians?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, first of all, I should like to thank the hon. member for saying that we are providing good services for the Indians, and I hope that the opposition is listening. Now, Mr. Speaker, in order to be able to provide the same services for white people living in that region, I would have to be not only Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development but also premier of the province of Quebec.

**Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):** I should like to ask a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

I understand that there is some affinity between the minister and the premier of the province of Quebec, but this is no solution. The minister is congratulating me for telling the government that he is providing very good services for the Indians of James Bay. Why does he not provide the same quality of services for the white people of that region? This is what I want to know.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I think that with regard to these services the white people are under the jurisdiction of the provincial government.

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[English]

**TRANSPORT****COMPLIANCE BY COMMISSION WITH DUTY UNDER ACT TO REVIEW FREIGHT RATES TO CAPTIVE SHIPPERS**

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trans-

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

port which is supplementary to those addressed to the Prime Minister earlier in connection with transportation. It deals specifically with the duties of the Canadian Transport Commission in respect of establishing railway freight rates for those shippers who are classified as captive to the railway companies, as provided under Section 278 of the Railway Act. Is the Canadian Transport Commission complying with the provisions of the act in that the CTC was asked to review and examine, through public hearings, the application and operation of this section of the act and report back to the Governor in Council? This was to have taken place four years after the implementation of the National Transportation Act which was—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member has asked a question. Perhaps the minister might be allowed to reply.

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I will ask for a report from the CTC and also from the Department of Justice. After that I will give an opinion.

**REASON FOR INCLUSION OF CROWSNEST FREIGHT RATES IN GENERAL REVIEW**

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct an additional question to the right hon. Prime Minister. If I understood his response to the question asked by the hon. member for York South correctly, it was in the affirmative, that the Crowsnest rate structure was included in the total review of transportation policy by the government. If that is the case, may I ask the Prime Minister what earthly reason there would be to review the Crowsnest Pass rate structure since it is the only rate structure in respect of which western people get a break on freight rates?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it is nice to hear that western people recognize they do get a break through the Crowsnest Pass rates.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** They don't get any break from this government.

An hon. Member: It is not a joke.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

An hon. Member: And you want them to vote for you.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. May we have order, please.

An hon. Member: Go ahead now, Pierre.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That's the complete answer.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Mr. Speaker, I was unable to hear what answer, if any, the Prime Minister gave. I should like to direct another supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Can he assure the House that under no circumstances will there be any review of or tampering with the Crowsnest Pass rate structure?