

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

that the cabinet would agree that the technical consideration should prevail over the political consideration of choosing the site on the South Shore, I felt it was wise to prepare what I had hoped would be useful information.

**Mr. Woolliams:** I suggest to the Acting Prime Minister, who must know Tennyson, that the cows may come and the cows may go, but the bull goes on forever.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister advise us whether he felt that the making of the tape by himself and his colleague could be used for the moral suasion of his colleagues in the cabinet?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister kindly advise the house whether the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development was stating the government position when he indicated that if the province of Quebec had felt strongly enough about this decision and could advance other arguments the cabinet would have given it further consideration and review?

**Mr. Hellyer:** We were open for discussions all along. We started co-operating with the province of Quebec many months ago, and we gave them access to all the technical information we had. They made information available to us to support the various points of view that they wished to put forward. This spirit of co-operation on our part was manifest right through to the end. As I indicated this afternoon, we would even have been willing to meet with them again in the final days or hours before the cabinet took its decision last Thursday, and if there was any technical information or any fact which had been overlooked, to give it the consideration that it would deserve.

**Mr. Woolliams:** You gave it ahead of time.

**CANADA COUNCIL****ALLEGED REFUSAL TO GIVE GRANTS TO AMATEURS**

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. Can the minister tell us whether or not the Canada Council has recently changed its policy with regard to grants given to amateur

talent in Canada, and whether in fact the council has refused to give grants to amateurs in the field of arts in Canada? If so, when did this policy change?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I was not informed of any such change of policy, but I shall gladly get in touch with the Canada Council to find out about any initiative on their part that I would not know about.

[*English*]

**Mr. Nesbitt:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If I understand the minister correctly, it is still the policy of the Canada Council to give grants to those in the field of arts who are still regarded as amateurs rather than professionals.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Pelletier:** I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but that is not what I said. I said that to my knowledge, the Canada Council policy has not undergone any substantial change recently. And I do not think that it has ever been the Canada Council's policy to subsidize amateur groups, except to help them acquire a professional status as quickly as possible providing they were already close to such status.

[*English*]

**Mr. Nesbitt:** A supplementary question. I am sorry to press the matter but there is some urgency and importance to it as far as many groups are concerned. So that there is no misunderstanding, is it then the policy of the Canada Council to give grants to professional groups only in this country?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Pelletier:** Mr. Speaker, I have just said the opposite. I am quite willing to get more precise information on that and to read again certain texts, but if I am not mistaken, the Canada Council's aim is to subsidize professional groups or groups likely to become professional in a short time, through the help of such grants.

[*English*]

**TRANSPORT****FREEZE ON MARITIME FREIGHT RATES**

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Transport a question about the freeze on maritime freight rates, a question I have been