

[Translation]

### TRANSPORT

#### PROPOSED REMOVAL OF TOLLS CHARGED PUBLIC TRANSPORT ON CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE, MONTREAL

**Mr. Jacques Olivier (Longueuil):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question which has nothing to do with sugar? They have just understood.

Can the minister inform this House whether he intends to remove tolls for public transport on Champlain Bridge, between Montreal and the south shore, in agreement with the province of Quebec?

[English]

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I considered action along these lines after submissions were made to me by the hon. member and several others. I am certainly sympathetic to the principle involved. There are some discussions going on with the province of Quebec in connection with the operation of the whole enterprise, and I thought that for the moment at least it would be better to let those discussions continue before reaching any firm conclusion.

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### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

#### ALLEGATIONS OF INTERFERENCE BY JUDGE MACKAY— INQUIRY AS TO TERMS OF REFERENCE AND REPORT OF CHIEF JUSTICE OF QUEBEC

**Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In answer to the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby the Prime Minister continued to refer to whether the courts had been influenced. My question is whether the terms of reference given to the department of justice of Quebec are beyond whether the courts were influenced. Surely, those terms of reference refer to whether there was any attempt whatsoever to influence. I should like the Prime Minister to confirm whether the judge has those terms of reference. Further, if the chief justice reports that no influence was exercised, and no attempt was made to exercise it, has the Prime Minister still not a political responsibility to this House for the conduct of his ministers?

● (1440)

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member listened to the Minister of Justice the other day, he will realize that "terms of reference" is perhaps used in a loose sense by the hon. member. We did not give terms of reference to the chief justice of the Superior Court as to how he should inquire from his own judges about certain things. We asked the judge to inform us. More precisely, the Minister of Justice asked the judge to inform him or to give him any information which might be in his possession. How he will come in possession of it is his problem and privilege. Whether it will be through a full inquiry, through talking to his judges or reading the correspondence I do not know. We are asking him to give us information that might be in his possession respecting any

### Oral Questions

unwarranted attempts to interfere with proper administration.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Can there be warranted attempts?

**Mr. Trudeau:** That is what we are talking about.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Can there be warranted attempts?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member cannot have missed the point I am making. We are not defining. He should not latch on to particular words. We are not telling the judge what to do.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** I am more worried about what the Prime Minister may do.

**Mr. Trudeau:** We asked him to inform the Minister of Justice if he feels there have been unwarranted attempts to influence the course of justice.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Yes, but can there be warranted attempts?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, of course there are warranted attempts. Any lawyer pleading a case is attempting that.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** What a shameful display.

**Mr. Paproski:** Where do you think you are, in Quebec city?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** As for the second question the hon. member asked, namely, even if the chief justice finds that there have been no unwarranted attempts, does the matter rest there, or will I not be concerned and look into the matter further, the answer is that, in this whole system of allegations, that will have been the answer which satisfies me. If the judge feels that his court has not been the victim or object of unwarranted attempts, I will then have the word of the court and the word of my ministers that they have not attempted to influence the course of justice, and I do not see how I could listen to the opposition which is basing its position on hearsay.

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

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Paproski:** Now we know what the Prime Minister thinks.

**Mr. Clark:** We are just a bunch of nobodies.

**Mr. Leggatt:** Mr. Speaker, apparently there is one law for cabinet ministers and another law in Canada applying to the general public.

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