

by the government of Canada to cover these added costs or will they be borne by the province of Quebec or the CBC?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker, there has been no further commitment by the government. I see the Secretary of State, who answers for the CBC, indicating that my statement is correct. It will, of course, be important for the CBC to make sure it does not go beyond the authorization of parliament, an authorization which was given by most members of the House.

MONTREAL OLYMPIC GAMES, 1976—ALLEGED DEAL BETWEEN ABC AND COJO FOR BROADCAST RIGHTS—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

**Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West):** As it is alleged that the non-tendered \$25 million contract between ABC and COJO involved a \$5 million under the table deal with the Quebec Liberal party, is the government of Canada investigating this allegation—that is all it is at the moment—with a view, if it is confirmed, to lessening the government of Canada's contribution for Olympic broadcasting coverage by an equal amount?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the question is hypothetical in its form. However, I hope this matter will be drawn to the attention of the government of the province of Quebec and that it will be able to refute these facts for all to hear.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Hon. members will appreciate we have just about reached or gone beyond the time allocated to the question period. I was hoping we could have two or three more questioners, but if we get involved in points of order we might as well go on with government business. The hon. member for Fraser Valley West rises on a point of order.

**Mr. Rose:** Mr. Speaker, my point of order has to do with the reply just made by the Prime Minister. I would like to ask him how one can refute facts.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I stand corrected. I obviously should have said the alleged facts.

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### VETERANS AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR EXPIRY OF VETERANS LAND ACT TO ENABLE CONSULTATION WITH VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the mounting protests, representations and resolutions being received by the minister's office from veterans' organizations and veterans, has the minister had consultation with the veterans organizations of Canada who want to extend the March 31 deadline under the Veterans Land Act? Will he indicate what consultations he is having and what his reaction is?

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I first wish to tell the hon. member

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that as far as the Veterans Land Act is concerned there has been considerable discussion and talk. In 1962, parliament passed an act which stated the cessation date would be March 31, 1974. Also, previous to that, eligibility for building certificates was to be in the hands of veterans by 1968. This was done quite some time ago. I think the hon. member is very familiar with the government that did that. At that time there were other plans available to veterans. Those other plans were re-establishment credits and university training. They were phased out. I also want to say we are certainly looking at this again. We want to keep faith with the veterans who did apply.

I remind the hon. member it is 30 years since the end of world war II and 20 years since the end of the Korean war. This has not been rapidly brought upon the veterans. At the same time, we are taking a close look at it. If I have sufficient information to make me think this date should be changed, I will so recommend to the government. However, it is something that has been in process for a long period of time. We have to assess the facts. We have to keep faith with those for whom this program was designed and they in some cases have to keep faith with us.

**Mr. Marshall:** In view of the co-operation of the minister, will the government House leader direct a reference to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs so that we can call the veterans' organizations to express the feelings of hundreds of thousands of veterans on the phasing out of this act?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to consider that. I will consult with the Minister of Veterans Affairs. I have the feeling we might as well stay if we want to continue the work of parliament at this time by continuing committee work. However, I will consider the proposal.

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● (1210)

### TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR ACTION TO PREVENT RAILWAY FREIGHT RATE INCREASES ON STEEL SHIPPED TO WESTERN CANADA

**Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have on two occasions requested the Minister of Transport to investigate the announced freight rate increases affecting western Canada. Can the minister tell us today what action he is contemplating to prevent these increases and require the two major railway companies to honour the commitment made by the minister during the Western Economic Opportunities Conference that freight rates would not be increased for 18 months until a study had been carried out? Can the minister give us an answer today? The House is adjourning and we would like to know.

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I have honoured my commitment. I think it is wrong to state in the House that I have not done so. The rates which were frozen were normal and competitive rates, not negotiated rates. I think the commitment has