

## TRANSPORT

### REDUCTION IN SERVICE BY DIGBY-SAINT JOHN FERRY— REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

**Mr. Charles E. Haliburton (South Western Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I had intended to direct a question to the Minister of Transport and had given him notice. In his absence perhaps I might address it to the Prime Minister. There is a matter of urgency in southwestern Nova Scotia with regard to the forthcoming cancellation of trips of the *Princess of Acadia*, the ferry running from Digby to Saint John, with substantial losses to the economy of southwestern Nova Scotia and Saint John. Would the Prime Minister undertake to give the House a statement or have the Minister of Transport give the House a statement on what program the government has to ensure continuation of that ferry service?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to draw the hon. member's question to the attention of the minister.

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## URBAN AFFAIRS

### POSITION OF MINISTER AT TRI-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON POSSIBILITY OF MUNICIPALITIES RECEIVING SHARE OF FEDERAL REVENUES

**Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs concerning the national tri-level meeting. In view of the fact the representatives of 4,500 municipalities of Canada, supported by the governments of Ontario and Alberta, wanted a study of the feasibility of local governments sharing in federally raised taxes, would the minister explain why he opposed even a study of this critical financial problem, and how will it be solved if it is not at least studied?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair has serious doubts about a question asked in those terms. When a member asks a minister to explain why a certain action was taken, that is debate. Perhaps the question might be asked in other words, or a supplementary might be asked.

**Mr. Roche:** Will the minister tell the House how many provinces will be required to approve the task force that has been recommended by the tri-level meeting to study public financing without any reference to tax sharing throughout the various levels of government?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to speak for the provinces here. The proposal for a study of the creation of an in-depth analysis of local government finances was the consensus of the conference and was the position put forward by myself. I would hope that all provinces would agree to an appointment of that kind of task force to examine the development of common data bases with respect to the comparative revenue and expenditure flows of each level of government and rising and emerging trends. I could go on and would be happy to table the statement that was agreed to as a consensus which will

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allow for an extremely useful analysis of the financial needs of local governments and from which, hopefully, progress can be made in the solution of financial problems at all levels of government.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair will recognize the hon. member for a supplementary and then the hon. member for Kent-Essex.

**Mr. Roche:** In view of the fact the consensus was arrived at as a result of a compromise to save future tri-level meetings, would the minister tell the House why he opposed a study on public financing and revenue sharing?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We are back where we started. I suggest to the hon. member that a question asked in those terms is inviting debate and should not be accepted by the Chair.

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## AGRICULTURE

### BEEF—POSSIBLE IMPOSITION OF SURCHARGE ON IMPORTS—INQUIRY AS TO DECISION

**Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Can the minister say if he has had representations from the Minister of Agriculture and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association regarding the chaotic condition of the Canadian market for beef, and can he state if a decision has been made on their request for a temporary surcharge to be placed on imports of live and dressed beef? If not, can the minister tell the House when a decision might be expected?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I do not want to accept all the premises of the question. I received a copy of the telegram to my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, from the cattlemen. I am in communication with him and a decision will be made shortly one way or the other because of the importance of the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** I believe the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby has a supplementary to the previous question following which I will recognize the hon. member for Joliette.

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## URBAN AFFAIRS

### POSSIBILITY OF MUNICIPALITIES RECEIVING SHARE OF CORPORATE INCOME TAXES

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the fact the governments of British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba support the principle that municipalities should obtain a share of corporate and other income taxes and, indeed, the government of Manitoba as of this year has implemented such a policy, can the minister assure the House that the federal