

Oral Questions

think the right hon. gentleman does. I hope that the other provinces will not fall for it in the sense that they feel this is a bargaining point to the effect, we will be just providing you are just. Justice is something which stands by itself.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: When the right hon. gentleman says that Premier Lévesque has pulled the rug from under our feet, I am very sad to hear that. It obviously shows that the right hon. gentleman thinks that this is a proper course. It is one we disagree with. Therefore, it is not our rug that is being pulled. It is perhaps the right hon. gentleman's.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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THE CONSTITUTION**CONSTITUTIONALITY OF PROPOSED PROVISION FOR
EDUCATION IN BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): The other day I listened to the Prime Minister describe the kind of legislation he is going to bring before parliament unless this is achieved. I wondered whether he had secured the opinion of the law officer of the Crown that the stand he was taking was unconstitutional and apparently this is just window dressing in order to build up the myth that he who did so much to destroy the unity of this country is to become the saviour.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am puzzled by the statement of the right hon. gentleman about the opinion of the law officer of the Crown. The right hon. gentleman should know we were proposing a constitutional amendment. It was not a matter of acting within the constitution. It was a matter of going to Victoria and hopefully getting the provinces to agree to a constitutional amendment.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The Liberals didn't agree.

Mr. Trudeau: This has nothing to do with the law officer of the Crown. I wish the right hon. gentleman would clarify his thoughts a little bit.

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TRANSPORT**SUGGESTED INVESTIGATION OF SUBSIDIES TO PRIVATE
SHIPPING COMPANIES IN VIEW OF EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT AT
NORTH SYDNEY**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. It is in reference to the motion I raised under Standing Order 43 at the commencement of today's proceedings. I realize the minister has a tremendously large department and naturally would not have the facts before him today. Can he assure the House,

the stevedores of North Sydney and the crews of CN marine ships that he will thoroughly investigate the question of subsidies to private shipping corporations that are going to compete with Crown corporations and discriminate against the stevedores of North Sydney and the crews of CN marine ships, thereby causing more unemployment. Will he let us know as soon as possible?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have been giving attention to the question of the commercial viability of various services supplying Newfoundland. Obviously, as the hon. member will appreciate, this is a question of a subsidized service competing with another subsidized service. Therefore, the questions can be put in a very regional way by any member of parliament coming from one of the regions involved. Our task in trying to provide proper solutions from the point of view of the people in Canada in total is to attempt to achieve some balance. That is what we will do as we attempt to find a solution to this problem.

Mr. Muir: Will the minister agree that before taxpayers' moneys are used to subsidize private corporations which know before they start that their operation is not going to be profitable, that the option should be given to the Crown corporation in order to assist them to maintain a proper balance and be as economic as possible?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, the exact point I was trying to make to the hon. member is that in this somewhat peculiar case the use of taxpayers' dollars is justified only when it comes to saving far more taxpayers' dollars because the alternative service is subsidized very heavily indeed. If the hon. member is relying on saving taxpayers' dollars as the justification of his proposal, I am afraid he is working against his exact proposal.

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**CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING
CORPORATION****YORK PLACE, HAMILTON—USE OF FUNDS ADVANCED FOR
PROJECT**

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, I will direct my question to the acting minister. My question relates to the York Place affair. On Wednesday, the Minister of State for Urban Affairs indicated that he had followed up the inquiry begun by his predecessor into irregularities or ministerial involvement in the \$5.9 million loan from CMHC to York Place. I am glad to hear that there was no improper action in the granting of these funds. My question is simply this. Will the acting minister tell us more about those funds advanced by the CMHC to York Place but which, according to the minister, were not in fact used to build that project specifically. Where, by whom, and for what purpose were they actually used?