

the views of the president of Canadian National, Mr. Banded, who says that the \$5 billion which will be needed for capital outlays in the next five or six years should be raised exclusively from freight rates. Does the minister agree?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to discuss that matter with Mr. Banded.

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### TRANSPORT

#### FREIGHT RATES—REASON FOR RETAINING UNITED STATES FIRM OF R. L. BANKS TO MAKE STUDY—REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION

**Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport to do with freight rates. Why was it deemed necessary to engage, in 1974, for the study of freight rates and future development of western Canada the American consulting firm of R. L. Banks and Associates of Washington.

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the last part of the question. Would the hon. member repeat.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, I asked why it was deemed necessary to engage the American consulting firm, R. L. Banks and Associates of Washington, D.C., for the study of railway freight rates and the future development of western Canada.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, that firm was retained by the Ministry of Transport and by the governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

[Later:]

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Transport a supplementary question about the American consulting firm's report. Has the study been completed? If so, will its context be made public?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, the committee in question is working well, even though some would like to see it collapse. We publish only that on which we are in agreement. In the present case the committee decided that it should be a working paper, to be used for the committee's purposes.

● (1520)

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. The minister indicated in his answer that some people wish this whole study could collapse. I want to make it perfectly clear that certainly does not apply to me, if that is what the minister is insinuating.

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. In the language used by some of my customers in the province of Quebec, I must tell the House that last night there was a settlement of accounts between the House of Commons and the press gallery. In this règle-

### *Business of the House*

ment de comptes, the House of Commons whopped the press gallery in hockey, six to three.

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

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Speaker, I hope the Solicitor General was not thinking of the press gallery as his future customers.

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### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

#### WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the government House leader the usual Thursday afternoon question. Now that we have prodded the Minister of Finance into facilitating the passage of the income tax bill, will the government House leader indicate what we will be doing for the rest of today, tomorrow and next week. Also, could he give us a list of the bills he hopes will be passed so that we can study them to see if they achieve the high standard this party insists upon for legislation.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, in welcoming back the House leader of the official opposition, I must say I was perhaps remiss in not informing him of what went on in his absence.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Not much.

**Mr. Sharp:** I am very pleased that we are finally reaching the end of the debate on the Income Tax Act. This will be continued this afternoon. I hope the hon. member will co-operate with the government in getting through the third and final stage of this bill. After we have concluded that, we will return to the second reading of the housing bill which was interrupted to complete the third reading of the income tax bill.

Tomorrow, I would like to call three items that I hope can be dealt with expeditiously. The first is the farm credit bill, C-34. There is a good deal of urgency because there are provisions for the extension of financial assistance and time is running short. Next will be the Northwest Territories bill which provides for an additional member. If we dispose of those items, I would like to move on to the opening, or perhaps even the completion, of the discussion on reference of the immigration green paper. Since we have a date by which the committee is to bring in its report, I think it is very important that we have the committee at work as soon as possible.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Four important committees have been listed for 3:30 this afternoon. I know from personal knowledge that this party has been trying to get one of these activated since the first day we returned after Christmas. On January 22, five weeks ago yesterday, a move was made to have the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence convened to study an important matter. Today is the first day that a sitting of the committee has been arranged. Along with it, there are three other important committees. As fate would have it, I happen to be on three of the committees. I am in a conflict of