

of Saskatchewan in the legislature there that the application by the Canadian National Railways for an increase in freight rates had the approval of the government. I should like to ask the Minister of Transport if the government was consulted about the Canadian National Railways' application for an increase in freight rates. If so, did it have their approval or consent in any way, shape or form?

Mr. GRAYDON: Order paper.

Hon. LIONEL CHEVRIER (Minister of Transport): The application for an increase in freight rates was not made by the Canadian National Railways. It was made by the Railway Association of Canada on behalf of the railways. The government had no knowledge of the application, did not authorize it, and, I am in a position to say to my hon. friend, was not consulted in the application made by the railway association to the board of transport commissioners.

Mr. GRAYDON: But is the government against it?

An hon. MEMBER: That is another question.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Let my hon. friend ask the question.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

### REQUEST FOR TEST OF ACOUSTICAL PROPERTIES OF CHAMBER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. DANIEL McIVOR (Fort William): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. I should have given him notice, but as he is a man of resources, he does not need it.

An hon. MEMBER: What kind of resources?

Mr. McIVOR: We have received a report from the Speaker of this house saying that he has made extensive research into the acoustics of different buildings. I would ask the minister now when it will be possible to have a test made in this house.

Hon. ALPHONSE FOURNIER (Minister of Public Works): I wish to thank the hon. member for his kind words. In this case I have not many resources. I understand a report has been made by the Speaker and that the conclusions arrived at therein do not favour the installation of a loud speaker system at the present time. I should not like to override His Honour the Speaker in this matter.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: We cannot hear.

Mr. GRAYDON: There is too much noise on the other side now.

Mr. MACKENZIE: On the other side there always is.

## GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

### CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Tuesday, March 4, consideration of the motion of Mr. J. W. MacNaught for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Bracken, and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Coldwell.

Mr. J. A. ROSS (Souris): Mr. Speaker, last evening at adjournment I had set forth a series of complaints by veteran settlers of the Charleswood area in Manitoba with respect to the type of construction and the costs proposed to be charged to the occupants of those houses under the Veterans' Land Act. This project happens to be a few miles west of the city of Winnipeg. In fact it is located in the eastern end of the constituency of Portage la Prairie. I believe the hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Miller) in a public statement last October suggested an immediate revaluation of the Charleswood properties and a reduction of the purchase price to a fair level. I understand that since then he has discussed the matter with the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Mackenzie). Prior to these last complaints we received the hon. member had spoken on this address in reply to the speech from the throne and therefore probably would not have another opportunity to discuss the matter in this house until either the budget is brought down or the estimates of the Department of Veterans Affairs are considered.

I think the condition which I have set forth concerning the Charleswood project exists in like projects in almost every province. On July 28, 1946, the Vancouver *Province* pointed out that the government, through the Veterans' Land Act, asks \$7,636 for veterans' houses in British Columbia, and they suggested a complete investigation of the entire business.

On July 5 last, I asked the following question in this chamber:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Veterans Affairs, based upon a report in this morning's press to the effect that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Montreal have exposed an alleged black market of homes built for war veterans in a government-approved Veterans Land Act project at Boucherville, across the St. Lawrence river and east of the city of Montreal. The article