

vessel. It will be in service in a few days' time, and we might have another one some time later in the fall.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Lundrigan:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Humbler-St. George's-St. Barbe rises on a point of order. I will recognize him first and then, in fairness, the hon. member for Rimouski and return to the hon. members who have supplementary questions they are anxious to ask.

**Mr. Marshall:** Mr. Speaker, just so that a wrong impression is not left by what the minister said, may I point out that an official communiqué has been issued by Frank Petten, public relations officer of CNR. He said in St. John's yesterday or the day before that while things are moving smoothly, there will be a backlog until after the Christmas-New Year period.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** I rise on the same question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I have inquired from CNR and was told that nobody can say that is so at this moment. There is no such indication.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. May we have order please. The hon. member is rising on a point of order but his point of order is being interrupted by a question of privilege which the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate wishes to raise at present. I would hope that this matter can be resolved quickly because I am anxious to give other hon. members an opportunity to ask their questions.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** Your Honour, the impression was left by the hon. gentleman who represents the Department of Transport in the House of Commons—

**Some hon. Members:** He is a minister.

**Mr. Lundrigan:**—that wrong information was given to the House of Commons. As my colleague from the west coast of the province indicated, yesterday a press release was put out officially by the CNR indicating exactly what the hon. member stated today. I am under the impression that either the Minister of Transport is totally unaware of what is going on in his department or is being fed a bunch of stuff by the CNR that is not in accordance with the facts.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. May we have order please. That, of course, is not a point of order. The hon. member is debating an issue with the minister during the question period. There should be other opportunities to raise points of order or questions of privilege or to make statements which are entirely irregular at this time, are certainly against the traditions of the House of Commons and are unfair to other hon. members who want to ask questions and participate in the question period. The Minister of Transport rises on a question of privilege.

### Oral Questions

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise on a question of privilege. There is only one way in which I can be made aware of what the CN is doing there at present and that is to get in touch with their officials and get a report. This is what I have done and I have communicated that to the House. I have been told by the CN on the same occasion that the effort they are making will mean an additional deficit this year of \$8 million over last year, that is \$52 million—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate sought and got the floor on a question of privilege. The minister was allowed to reply, which he did briefly. I request the co-operation of hon. members and we will get back to supplementary questions in due course. Certainly we are not achieving much in a practical way by these alleged questions of privilege and points of order which, in my opinion, are entirely disorderly.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I do not think members of this House of Commons should be as concerned with parliamentary niceties as with what goes on in the country. I am not an expert in the rules, as are several hon. members over there, but I do know that we have some freedom of speech. If we do not have the right to stand up in the House and bring these matters before the people of Canada through the medium of the House of Commons, then it is a waste of time for us to be here. That is my right.

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

**Mr. Lundrigan:** It is very difficult during the question period, unless one has a degree in navigation of some sort, to raise a question and put all the points across in the proper manner. We put the question to the minister today and the minister referred to the CNR. We are not talking about the CNR; we are talking about the constitutional responsibility of the government of Canada to the province of Newfoundland under the Terms of Union which were implemented in 1949. We are not asking the minister to obtain reports from the CNR. We are asking him to assume full responsibility as the spokesman on transportation for the government and to make sure that our goods are moved.

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

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I will certainly not rule on this alleged question of privilege. The hon. member claims his right to free speech. I have the impression that if there is one member who has not been denied this right, it is the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** This is a parliamentary institution which operates according to rules that are applicable to all hon. members. I will say nothing further and will recognize now the hon. member for Rimouski. He is a humble