

## Oral Questions

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Would the hon. member please ask his question. Many other members are seeking the floor.

**Mr. Marshall:** Mr. Speaker, I could direct my question to five ministers but I will direct it to the Minister of Public Works. It has to do with a portion of land known as Pine Tree Radar Base, which was left three years ago by the American government to the Canadian government. As several departments and agencies of the federal government are interested in this facility, may I ask what action is being taken to prevent vandalism which is damaging millions of dollars worth of property. What is the government doing to prevent vandalism?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I know nothing about that particular case but would be glad to inquire and reply to the hon. member.

**Mr. Marshall:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As I have received confirmation that the matter is to be investigated, may I ask the Minister of Communications, who answers to this House for Telesat Canada, if his department has investigated the site as being of interest to Telesat Canada? I might say that the property is being vandalized to such an extent that its deteriorated state should be an embarrassment to Canada.

[Translation]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I shall inquire about the interesting question raised by the hon. member and reply to him as soon as possible.

[English]

**Mr. Marshall:** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my final supplementary question to the Minister of Transport. As the department has a particular interest in the equipment at Pine Tree Radar Base and as the matter which I am raising has been brought to his attention for the past three months through my inquiries, may I ask what action the minister has taken in connection with his interest in that site.

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I will take the hon. member's question as notice and see if I can reply tomorrow.

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## TRANSPORT

POSSIBLE INVESTIGATION OF DREDGING CONTRACTS IN  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Earlier in today's question period he said that he had initiated investigations into contracts for the dredging of harbours in Ontario and Quebec. Did he at the same time, or has he since then, initiated investigations into dredging contracts in British Columbia, and has he any reports about those contracts?

[Mr. Marshall.]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the answer is no, unless the Solicitor General did, but not at the request of the Department of Transport.

**Mr. Reynolds:** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my supplementary question to the Solicitor General. Has he ever initiated in British Columbia investigations of dredging contracts in the way he did at Hamilton.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, but I will check.

PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF GENERAL COMMODITY RATES—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a specific question to the Minister of Transport. Since the view is widely held, I think by the minister as well, that he, his department and the Canadian Transport Commission have insufficient authority to oversee properly areas of transportation involving freight rates, has the minister encouraged, or does he approve, the efforts of Canadian National and Canadian Pacific, as reported in this morning's *Montreal Gazette*, to reduce or eliminate the general commodity freight rates by making them specific rates or agreed charges, a move which will further reduce whatever authority the minister of the Canadian Transport Commission have over freight rates.

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, although I had not intended to, I will read the *Montreal Gazette* and perhaps make some comments tomorrow.

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## CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

VIEW OF RAILWAY THAT RATES SHOULD BE BASED ON  
NORMAL COMPETITIVE PRACTICES—MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. While the minister is doing that, would he also look at other publications. In view of statements made during the last year or so by the Prime Minister, the minister and others, is he prepared to tolerate national advertisements by Canadian National Railways, in view of his statement that competition does not work in transportation in Canada. Will he tolerate these national advertisements put out by Canadian National, a public corporation, which state that railway rates should continue to be based on, and I quote, "normal competitive business practices".

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I must make a correction. I said that competition alone is not working in that field, and I maintain that. Outside that, I think it can work.

[Later:]

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT THAT CAPITAL OUTLAYS BE  
RAISED FROM FREIGHT RATES—MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre):** A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister share