

few days, can the minister advise us now when we can expect that report?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, I did not precisely understand the purport of the hon. gentleman's question.

Mr. Patterson: An item which appeared in the paper a couple of days ago indicated that a report would be made very soon in regard to the restructuring of the radio operators class, and I was wondering whether we could anticipate that report very shortly.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This question does not appear to be of national urgency, and I suggest it might be placed on the order paper.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PRESS RELEASE CONCERNING EUROPEAN VISIT OF MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, whose absence has distressed me for a number of days. I am holding in my hand a press release which is marked for immediate release, dated at Ottawa, November 17, 1966, the heading to which is: "Text of the statement by Hon. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the House of Commons reporting on his European tour, November 4-16, 1966."

I have been following the proceedings very carefully since 2.30 but I have not yet heard this statement made. Is there some error in the proceedings?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, while I was away I thought of my hon. friend, I can assure him. I will have to look into this.

WATER RESOURCES

POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING CONFERENCE ON POLLUTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Is action now being taken to follow up the national conference on pollution by having discussions at the ministerial level?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Not yet, Mr. Speaker, but I am quite sure that this will come soon.

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Inquiries of the Ministry OLD AGE SECURITY

INCREASED TAXATION TO COMPENSATE FOR HIGHER PENSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister and it is based on information given yesterday in answer to a starred question of mine concerning the surplus of revenues collected for old age pensioners as against the amounts paid out. In view of this information, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the government will reconsider its announced intention of increasing taxation to pay for the proposed increase in the old age pension?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, we will not reconsider our intention or our decision to introduce a baby budget in this session, which among other things will have to take care of certain additional expenditures which will be required, if the house authorizes those expenditures.

Mr. Knowles: Ten o'clock.

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ITALY—REQUEST THAT CANADIAN OFFICE STRESS BICULTURAL FEATURE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I should like to welcome back the Secretary of State for External Affairs by putting a question to him.

In view of the forthcoming establishment of a Canadian cultural institute in Italy, can the minister assure the house that the Canadian government will take advantage of this opportunity to illustrate in that country, and in the resulting general agreement, the bicultural character of Canada?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

THE BUDGET

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL MEASURES—INQUIRY AS TO PROBABLE DATE OF INTRODUCTION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): My question is for the Minister of Finance. As the fall session has approximately four weeks remaining, has the minister decided on what date to present the baby budget to the house?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker. As I said in answer to a similar question the other day, much depends on the time taken by the house with legislation having to do with the increase in old age pensions.