

two companies, one which owned the particular asset, and the purchaser. As I understand, there were some conditions attached. But in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who is at the First Ministers' Conference, I would prefer to bring it to his notice and he will respond in due course.

EXISTENCE OF MARKET RESTRICTIONS QUERIED

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I accept it as galling that the Government is not able to give an answer to this very important question. Restrictive market conditions are wrong. I want to know why the Government allowed Petro-Canada to put these restrictive market conditions in this sale.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, without agreeing with the premise of the question, the Acting Minister has undertaken to provide a full and comprehensive answer in an appropriate fashion. I am surprised that the Hon. Member would find that non-acceptable.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—EXCHANGE VALUE OF CANADIAN DOLLAR

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. He will know that yesterday the free trade process took an ominous turn when the chief negotiator indicated that the American Congress would likely be calling for an increase in the value of the Canadian dollar. The only way that the Government could do that would be to increase interest rates significantly. Is the Government giving any consideration at all to increasing interest rates seriously as part of the free trade process?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss MacDonald: Are you advocating that?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, the American trade negotiator said yesterday that these exchange rates between the two countries are generally not part of the negotiations. That is our Government's position.

GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON INTEREST RATES

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, that is interesting, because it was also quoted that Peter Murphy said that he did not know if he could possibly sell an agreement to the Congress if Canada does not make concessions on its exchange rate. Now, that makes it pretty clear to anybody concerned with this process that they are asking for concessions; and Congress will only sign an agreement if those concessions are likely made. My question to the Deputy Prime

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Minister is this. Will he say categorically that the Government of Canada will not give any consideration at all to increasing interest rates as part of these discussions?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should know that interest rates have declined by almost four percentage points since this Government took office. The policy of this Government is to keep interest rates going down, not up like the Liberals and the NDP did when they were in office.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: When were we in office? That's a slip.

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DISASTERS

AIR-INDIA CRASH—DELAY IN LAYING CHARGES

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, my first question is for the Solicitor General. I have given him notice of the question. It has been almost a year and a half since the Air-India crash; a year and a half since the premeditated, planned, and deliberate mass murder of 329 individuals, most of whom were Canadians. To date criminal charges have not been laid. Can the Solicitor General explain to Canadians, and especially to the families of the victims, why charges have not been laid? Will he not agree that there is insufficient evidence to pursue a criminal prosecution?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the fact that the Hon. Member advised my office of this question this morning. I can advise the House and the Hon. Member that I checked with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police before coming to Question Period this morning. I am advised by them that the investigation is still being actively carried on. It is continuing. I can give no further information at this time.

REQUEST THAT ROYAL COMMISSION BE APPOINTED

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, the delay is inexcusable. My supplementary question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. As the Hon. Minister knows, there has been an inquiry in Cork, Ireland; another in India. Yet there has not been an inquiry in Canada, notwithstanding the fact that most of the 329 victims were Canadians.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government, immediately order a Royal Commission inquiry to investigate all aspects of the Air India crash, and specifically the conduct of External Affairs, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service?

An Hon. Member: Shame, shame!