

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Will the minister check into reliable reports emanating from Halifax this morning as the *Bona-venture* left Halifax with Department of Industry officials aboard, that the estimate will probably go over \$8 million?

Mr. Drury: I shall be glad to do so, Mr. Speaker.

HOUSING

REPORTED SHORTAGE OF MORTGAGE MONEY

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question arising out of a previous question I asked, in connection with the situation created by a lack of National Housing Act mortgage funds. Has he received a unanimous communication from the Ontario members of the National House Builders Association to the effect that they deplore the serious situation, critical to the house building industry, and urging immediate government action to re-establish the available direct N.H.A. mortgage loans in all areas? The Prime Minister said the matter was before the government, and it is one of such urgency that I wondered if he was in a position to answer today.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I am not in a position to answer today but I appreciate, as my right hon. friend does, that it is a matter of great urgency. It is being treated as such. I hope the minister will be able to make a statement on it at the beginning of the week.

INDUSTRY

AUTO PARTS—REMOVAL OF SALES TAX ON PRODUCTION MACHINERY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In order that Canadian car parts manufacturers may compete more effectively and on a fair basis with their United States counterparts, would he not seriously consider removing the 11 per cent sales tax on production machinery?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): I suggest to the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, that this is a matter that can be discussed during the Budget debate. I shall listen very carefully to representations that may be made. Many have been made already.

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Inquiries of the Ministry

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs if he would inform the house whether discussions are still continuing amongst members of the international control commission with a view to a conference seeking peace in Viet Nam, or whether those discussions are now at an end.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The discussions are not at an end. I had one on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Lewis: May I ask a supplementary question. In view of the developments in Viet Nam, can the minister inform us whether any progress has been made since the last time there were such discussions, or are we still at the same impasse with regard to the attitude of Poland in the matter?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): It would be wrong to say that Poland was the obstacle, but I think my hon. friend will understand it is not possible for me to give any details about this matter at this stage.

RHODESIA—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON COMMONWEALTH MEETING

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): I should like to ask a question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs which I hope will not be embarrassing. I should like to ask whether he has anything to report with regard to the recent meeting in London of commonwealth representatives concerning Rhodesia.

An hon. Member: Help him up.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I just want to say to the Prime Minister that the reason I hesitated was that yesterday my hon. friend fired a loaded question at me which got me into some trouble, according to the Leader of the Opposition. I have decided from now on—

Mr. Diefenbaker: You need the Prime Minister's help.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): —to pay perhaps even greater attention to questions that might not be intended to be loaded but undoubtedly have that result.

Mr. Pickersgill: The answers are sometimes loaded.

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