

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

given corridor notice of it already. May I ask the minister to suggest to his colleague the Minister of Transport that he consider whether the monument to the merchant seamen of the world wars located at the southeast end of Halifax could become a signal for shipping so that this light will not have to go out? I ask this question because the private veterans organization that has been responsible for it is no longer able to meet the utility bills.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** I thank the hon. member for enlightening me on this question, Mr. Speaker.

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**MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION ACT**

NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES RESPECTING RECOGNITION OF NATIVE PEOPLE'S HUNTING AND FISHING RIGHTS

**Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, on February 9 the Secretary of State for External Affairs took as notice a question I asked about negotiations with the United States regarding possible alterations to the Migratory Birds Convention Act which would give recognition to the aboriginal rights of the native people. I hope that the minister may have an answer for me today because, as he may have noticed from reading the press, this is becoming increasingly a matter of controversy and—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member has asked the question and perhaps he should give the minister the opportunity to reply.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, there were preliminary discussions with the United States at the official level two years ago. However, since that time there has been no substantive discussion. Last fall efforts were made by Canada to renew the subject but because of changes in the top personnel of the United States Department of the Interior which occurred at about the same time it has not been possible to make firm arrangements for a meeting. At the moment, therefore, we cannot indicate when consultations might be renewed.

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[Translation]

**TAXATION**

PRESENTATION OF BILL IMPLEMENTING REFORMS

**Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

Does he intend to introduce in the near future his tax reform bill and specify what are the tax reforms he intends to propose, owing to the uncertainty of Canadian and foreign investors as a result of which they are prevented from investing further in Canada?

[Mr. McCleave.]

[English]

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I have indicated in the House when I would expect to be able to bring forward the legislation with respect to tax reform.

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**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**

PROJECTED TAKEOVER OF HOME OIL BY UNITED STATES COMPANY—REPORTED REQUEST BY MINISTER THAT LETTER OF INTENT BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** In the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether one of his ministers caused a request to be made to the Brown interests and the Ashland interests that the letter of intent involving the control of Home Oil Company dated in January be maintained on a confidential basis?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I know no more about this than the minister said in the House in answer to a question a couple of days ago.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, this is an important subject and one upon which a debate is to take place tonight. The minister indicated that he knew of the agreement. It has not been made public, and the report is circulating that the government requested that the parties involved keep silent about it. In view of the importance of this matter, would the Prime Minister or someone on behalf of the government clarify this issue? I also make this request because other investors were trading in these shares in the meantime.

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**INDUSTRY**

LUMBERING—CLAIM THAT TAX STRUCTURE ENCOURAGES UNITED STATES TAKEOVERS OF CANADIAN FIRMS—EFFECT OF UNPEGGING OF DOLLAR ON INDUSTRY

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. I wonder if he has received any other representations beyond those of the Canadian Lumbermen's Association or if he has seen the report of the meeting of the Canadian Lumbermen's Association claiming that Canada's tax structure, particularly estate taxes, is designed specifically to encourage United States takeovers of Canadian lumber firms?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I have not seen this report.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Has the minister received any representations from the lumber operators of this country to the effect that the unpegging of the dollar has cost them about \$50 million in revenue so far and has resulted in the industry operating at only about