

Inquiries of the Ministry

clearly and firmly the attitude of the government towards the Greek government which does not respect basic human freedoms.

It is never too late to make decisions, even if in our opinion that statement should have been made earlier. However, the Greek government will undoubtedly be informed by its own ambassador about Canada's firm stand about countries which would like to impose totalitarianism or dictatorship.

It is time, I believe, for a country which considers itself the champion of freedom to act, to make a responsible statement in this connection and to call upon Greece to restore individual freedom and democracy, in order that the human being be respected. In my opinion, Canada can play a very important role, by encouraging certain countries like Greece to review their positions so that human beings will be treated as such and not like slaves of the Middle Ages.

• (11:20 a.m.)

[English]

TAX REVIEW BOARD BILL

ESTABLISHMENT, DUTIES, APPEALS,
ORGANIZATION, ETC.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-216, to establish the Tax Review Board and to make certain amendments to other acts in relation thereto.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

CANADIAN ACTION IN LIGHT OF REPORTED
U.S. EXPANSION OF MONETARY POLICIES
AND OECD CRITICISM

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. In view of the reported indications yesterday that President Nixon is supporting some expansion in United States monetary policies, are the minister and those responsible for monetary policy in Canada actively giving consideration to some move to strengthen the economy of Canada particularly in view of the obvious slackening in business expectations and the very disturbing situation with regard to unemployment?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if any changes in government policy in this regard are to be made they will be announced in the House in the usual manner.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, that is very small comfort to the unemployed people of Canada. I ask the minister whether any consideration is being given. If no consideration is being given to the views of those Canadians who are expressing concern, and they include some very distinguished Canadians apart from any member of the opposition, is the minister giving any consideration at all to the concern and criticism reported to have been expressed by the OECD group of examiners who have reportedly found a very serious fault in Canada's economic status?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I think the report is a false report.

Mr. Stanfield: Is the government of Canada prepared to table or publish the report of the OECD examiners with regard to Canada's present economic policy?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, it will be made available as soon as it is published by the OECD. It has not been published yet.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister of Finance aware of the sharp fall-off in retail sales during the month of April, which has just been announced, giving very clear indication of the fact that the economy is slackening, and does he not think that, with all these indicators of a slackening economy and growing unemployment, the government should take some steps to quicken the pace?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that perhaps the first part of the question is not entirely in order. He asked whether the minister is aware of certain facts. I would think that the second part of the question is argumentative. Perhaps the hon. member might like to rephrase the question.

Mr. Hees: In view of the facts, of which I am sure the minister is aware, does he not think it is about time the government gave consideration to policies to bolster the economy?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I simply wish to ask the Minis-