

TRADE

PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO QUEBEC ON EXTERNAL
TRADE

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Could he tell this House if he is aware of a statement made by the Quebec delegate to the Annual Congress of International Relations Club, Mr. Jean Deschamps, who said that Quebec should have access to the economic records governing the Canadian external policy when decisions being taken have a direct incidence on the economic growth of Quebec and, if so, could he tell us if these records will be made available to Quebec at the request of the province?

● (1500)

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the report mentioned by the hon. member. We do co-operate with the provinces in providing them with information that would be useful in their industrial development, and we are always happy to co-operate.

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IMMIGRATION

POSSIBLE USE OF KOREANS TO CONSTRUCT TAR SANDS
PLANTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the statement made earlier this week by the Minister of Supply and Services that there is likely to be a massive immigration of some 30,000 Koreans to construct 20 tar sands plants in northern Alberta, will the minister say whether his department has been involved in this planning; and in view of the short time—1980—within which to complete these plants, will he say whether his department is now already involved in planning to move these people to Canada?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that is not the correct interpretation of the minister's comments. I can assure the hon. member that there has been no such formal suggestion made to my department with regard to individuals from Korea. I would also add that we are, however, working very closely with the Alberta government through the Alberta manpower needs committee, which is a federal-provincial mechanism, in discussing the manpower requirements for development of the tar sands.

Mr. Bawden: In view of the fact that closer to 60,000 people with special skills may be required to meet this construction demand, will the minister undertake to advise the House very shortly where the government envisages these employees coming from, and when such a plan will commence?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, in consultation with the Alberta government through the manpower needs commit-

Oral Questions

tee that kind of figure has not yet surfaced. However, we are in very close contact with them and the situation seems to be developing very satisfactorily as far as they are concerned.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Supply and Services rises on a question of privilege.

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put on record, so that hon. members will know, that I never said that in my project we were going to attract 30,000 Koreans to Canada. I am ready at any time to give hon. members on the opposite side a briefing, but the problem with the Conservatives is that they sit and think, but mostly sit.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

INCREASE IN PASSENGER FARES—SUGGESTION MINISTER OF
CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS FILE APPLICATION
FOR REVIEW

Mr. John Harney (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, that is a hard act to follow. In the absence of the Minister of Transport may I direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that Canadian National Railways has announced that it will increase passenger fares by up to 15 per cent on April 1, an increase that follows hard on another increase of the same dimension in November, is the government considering the possibility of approaching the CNR, however humbly, with a view to their not bringing this increase into effect?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is a question in regard to which I could not be expected to have an intimate knowledge, but I am sure that my friend the Minister of Transport or the acting minister will be happy to reply at an appropriate time.

Mr. Harney: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question which I should like to direct to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact that even the Canadian Transport Commission cannot bring about a review of railway passenger fares unless an aggrieved passenger makes an application and asks leave to have an increase in fares reviewed, would the minister undertake to act on behalf of that endangered species, the Canadian railway passenger, and file an application in his own name?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have already taken an initiative along these lines in providing a special grant of \$100,000 to the Consumers Association of Canada to enable them to carry out a consumer advocacy program whereby they may make representations of this sort before regulatory bodies, both federal and provincial.