

Oral Questions

possible to administer this tax in an efficient manner. If by any chance it should become impossible to do so, or if it became clear that we cannot administer it, we would then reconsider the matter.

[*English*]

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I raise a very brief point of order so as not to rob the question period of further time. I wonder if the minister might be permitted at the conclusion of the question period to return to motions to make a short statement in order to clarify this situation in view of the very serious consequences.

Mr. Speaker: I will inquire about that shortly.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GARRISON WATER DIVERSION PROJECT, NORTH DAKOTA—REPLY TO CANADIAN REPRESENTATIONS

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs in regard to the building of the proposed Garrison Dam project in the United States and its far-reaching implications for Manitoba and part of Saskatchewan. Is the project continuing at the present time, and has the government received any word from the United States in reply to its protest against further work being carried out on the project?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): As the House knows, Mr. Speaker, we have requested a moratorium on further construction until such time as the authorities of the two countries can reach an understanding that Canadian rights and interests have been fully protected. We have not yet had a response to our note.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Lisgar on a supplementary. Then I will inquire whether there is unanimous consent to return to motions and, if there is not, will call orders of the day.

Mr. Murta: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he can assure the House, and more particularly the people of Manitoba and of the area affected in Saskatchewan, whether or not the federal government will keep pressing for a moratorium so far as the building and completion of this dam is concerned?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Dinsdale: As a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are a number of members seeking to ask supplementaries and additional questions. We have gone about three minutes beyond the question period. I am agreeable to having more questions but this can only be done if there is unanimous consent to continue with the question period.

Some hon. Members: No.

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

Mr. Speaker: Obviously there is not unanimous consent. Earlier a suggestion was made by the hon. member for Central Nova and I will now inquire whether the Minister of Transport wishes to return to motions to make a statement. I gather there is not unanimity on this either.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the government House leader. Appreciating fully that there are still sincere and last minute negotiations taking place between leaders of all parties that might affect next week and our plans with respect thereto, may I ask the government House leader if he will now, or certainly tomorrow, establish the order of business in the usual way on the basis that we might unfortunately still be here next week?

Mr. MacEachen: I agree that—

Mr. Nowlan: You have both Grinch and Scrooge over there.

Mr. MacEachen: They are on both sides of the House.

Mr. Nowlan: No, Grinch is over there.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I agree that we are trying to work out some satisfactory solution in order to complete the business of the House in an orderly way. If that falls down, the procedure would be to continue with the election expenses bill and then take the export tax measure. However, that could also be subject to further discussion.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Reynolds: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order based on the question asked by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway of the Minister of Finance. I notice that the Food Prices Review Board released its report in Montreal this afternoon and not to members of parliament, yet one of the members of the House has been quoting from that report. I wonder which government department, if any, leaked the report to one of the government members, namely, the hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway, before other members got it?

An hon. Member: The hon. member for St. John's East had it first.

Mr. Speaker: I doubt whether that is a point of order. It is rather more like a question and there does not appear to be an answer forthcoming. Perhaps hon. members might discuss between themselves what happened, if anything. Orders of the day.