

Oral Questions

built until this country is satisfied that the level of risk is acceptable?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am not certain that that is the route to follow but will certainly look at that possibility. I understand that licences as issued by the state of Maine are conditional upon clearance being obtained from Canada with regard to the transiting of Head Harbour Passage. Our position on it remains, as it has been consistently, that we do not consider this waterway safe for the transit of large oil laden vessels and we have no reason to change our attitude in that regard. The company and other interested parties were all advised of this position some time ago.

Mr. Howie: Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for his answer, and ask this supplementary question: In view of the increasing level of hazards posed by tanker routes, tanker ports and off-shore drilling operations to both the United States and Canadian coastlines, will the minister be prepared to consider undertaking discussions with the United States with a view to forming a specific joint consultation procedure to deal with high risk projects which are increasingly affecting the adjacent waters of the two countries?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member no doubt knows and as has been mentioned in the House several times in recent weeks in relation to west coast tanker traffic, such discussions with the United States are under way already. They may not take precisely the form the hon. member outlined but we are making progress and I am still of the view that we can reach some satisfactory arrangement with the Americans.

* * *

MULTICULTURALISM

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF POLICY

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for multiculturalism. I refer to an address given by the minister at the Indians of Toronto conference on May 14, I believe, in which he vaguely suggested the government's policy on multiculturalism. I wonder if the minister could be more specific and indicate to the House what the government's permanent policy is on multiculturalism?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question surely, by its very terms, asks the minister to make a general statement on policy.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, I remind the minister of his statement in this House on May 2, in which he stated he would provide me with written notice of details of the government's permanent policy on multiculturalism. I have not yet received a reply. Does this mean that the government's policies are too numerous to mention or that the government has not any policy on multiculturalism?

[Mr. Howie.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is asking the minister to set out certain policies. This would have to be done at some time other than during the question period.

* * *

FINANCE

EFFECT OF ECONOMIC SITUATION ON EMPLOYMENT IN MANUFACTURING—POSSIBILITY OF EARLY BUDGET

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Has the minister reviewed the remarks made by the economist Douglas Peters, particularly those remarks to the effect that manufacturing, which previously accounted for 27 per cent of employment and now accounts for 22 per cent, could account for only 15 per cent in future years if economic conditions are not put right?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, without confirming those specific figures I would have to say that yes, indeed, that is the trend about which the government is concerned. That trend, and the impact on it of inflation, has been very much the reason for our concern about inflation in Canada.

Mr. Stevens: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Did the minister also note Mr. Peters' comments about Canada being half a million jobs short of reasonably full employment levels by the mid-1980s, which would mean Canada is heading for a 10 per cent unemployment rate? Mr. Peters made the point that that will happen unless there are tax reductions including further tax credits, federal sales tax cuts and, in general, more buoyant budgets implemented at the Ottawa level?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I pointed out to Mr. Peters and his companion on the panel who was recommending a cut in personal income tax that, of course, everyone would like a general reduction in taxation, but nobody likes a general reduction in services.

Mr. Stevens: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since inflation is at higher levels than anticipated, unemployment is higher than anticipated and real growth is lower, is consideration being given to the introduction of an early budget?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): No, Mr. Speaker.

● (1450)

[Translation]

Mr. Jacques Lavoie (Hochelaga): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Since he has been informed of the question, with your permission I shall wait until he is back in the House.