

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, does the minister think it necessary to protect the people of the United States from hearing the views of a section of the people of Viet Nam with whose fate they are very much involved?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is obviously an argument.

[Later:]

Mr. Mark MacGuigan (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the question asked by the hon. member for Greenwood concerning five South Vietnamese. Has the minister received any representations from the United States government in this matter?

Mr. Lang: No, Mr. Speaker, certainly not. The decision was made on the basis of Canadian law and on the basis of our policy.

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GRAIN**PRODUCTION AND RECEIPTS POLICY—RAISING OF AMOUNT OF YEARLY EARNINGS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN STABILIZATION FUND**

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister who reports to the House for the Canadian Wheat Board. It relates to a comment he made a few minutes ago with respect of the fact that agricultural policy is presently under review. Is the government considering raising the disqualifying restriction respecting participation in the grain stabilization fund from \$10,000 to \$15,000 yearly earnings and, if so, is a statement to be made on this subject shortly?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, that is certainly one of the subjects on which we sought representations and upon which we have had discussions. I would anticipate that it would be part of an official announcement of any decision.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**PROPOSED OIL PIPELINE FROM PRUDHOE BAY TO VALDEZ, ALASKA—CONSULTATION WITH UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES**

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Since United States interests have indicated they are planning to construct a pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez on the west coast, can the minister advise the House whether consultation was carried on with the United States authorities as to the best possible route for this pipeline?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have had many discussions

[Mr. Lang.]

with United States authorities about both gas and oil, and certainly the idea of a pipeline across Alaska or down the Mackenzie Valley. All these matters were discussed between ministers and secretaries.

[Later:]

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister in relation to the question asked a few minutes ago about the Alaskan oil pipeline. I believe the minister indicated that Canada was making representations to the United States. I notice the minister is shaking his head. May I ask whether Canada has taken any particular position on this proposed pipeline, and what is the government's position?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I do not think we should be asked to take a position on a pipeline through United States territory. Just to clarify the point, I did not say we had made representations. I said there had been consultations between ministers and secretaries.

Mr. Rose: Mr. Speaker, I realize the pipeline is within the United States, but since trans-shipment to United States ports would involve Canadian coastal waters it would seem to me Canada must have some interest in this matter and I wonder whether the Acting Prime Minister would care to put forward our position on this matter?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not think this should be done at this time.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE**PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS—BASIS OF STATEMENT BY MINISTER TO SENATE COMMITTEE**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, in light of the remarks of the Minister of National Defence yesterday to a committee of the other place, would he indicate whether or not he based certain comments he made, particularly his certainty of a greater likelihood of peacekeeping operations in the Middle East, on discussions he may have had with United Nations officials, or was he just prophesying or looking into the future?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the remarks I made on both possible theatres were really based on an assessment of conditions of operation rather than any expectation that there would be an early political settlement in either of the two areas. In view of our experience in UNEF in the Middle East in the past, I think on the whole it is obviously easier for us to operate there than it would be in another theatre.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, can I assume then that there has not been any basic change in our position and in our existing plans in respect of peacekeeping opera-