

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that the hon. member's question is a representation. It is not a supplementary. The hon. member asked a question on transportation. It may have been a related question, but it was not a supplementary question.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR ADMISSION TO CANADA OF CHILEAN REFUGEES NOW IN BUENOS AIRES

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the minister received representations from the Canadian Council of Churches and the Canadian Catholic Conference in respect of 150 refugees from Chile who are, I believe, at the airport in Buenos Aires in the Argentine and who are seeking to come to Canada. They have been threatened with immediate deportation back to Chile or to their countries of origin. Will the government take urgent steps with a view to permitting as many as possible of these refugees to come to Canada in accordance with the undertaking given by the minister to the House that the government will adopt a humane attitude in such cases?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, on the specific question as to whether I received representations from the Canadian Catholic Conference, I do not know whether in fact I received representations. My department reports, however, that this situation, which was outlined to me in the letter from the hon. member of October 22, is a situation of which they were unaware. Therefore, I asked our office here to get in touch with Buenos Aires, and I am now expecting a report. If, in fact, the situation is as reported, I can assure the hon. gentleman that the Canadian government will apply the humanitarian standards that it has always applied to similar situations.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, by way of a supplementary question, may I make a recommendation? Does the minister not appreciate that there is great urgency involved in this case, as these people may be deported and it may be too late to do anything?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, as I say, the department had been unaware of this, but as soon as the hon. member's letter was received I had a message sent off to Buenos Aires, to check on the report.

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TOURISM

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF MEASURES TO ASSIST INDUSTRY

Mr. Keith Taylor (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Since the session is now almost ten months old, and since the Speech from the Throne indicated that measures would be introduced to assist in the development of the tourist industry in

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Canada, would the Prime Minister advise the House whether any action other than the usual issuing of press releases will be taken this year on this important matter?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will have to consult with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to see if he intends to make any announcement in this regard.

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ENERGY

NUCLEAR AND HEAVY WATER PLANT IN NEW BRUNSWICK—DATE OF DECISION ON PROGRAM

Mr. Tom Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of present energy difficulties, can we expect that the government will be accelerating its program of nuclear plants and, in particular, will the first decision, the one in which New Brunswick is interested, be made almost immediately? If so, when?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the proposal, as the hon. member knows, is not only for a nuclear plant but also for a heavy water plant in New Brunswick. I hope that the question of a heavy water plant can be decided by the government before the end of this month.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REQUEST FOR REFERENCE OF COST TO STANDING COMMITTEE—POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF AMENDING LEGISLATION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the government House leader. As the unemployment insurance ceiling, as set out in prior legislation in the amount of \$800 million, has been dispensed with, and as we note with concern the increased cost of unemployment insurance, which may be greater than perhaps it was last year, would the government House leader now direct that the matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration be struck, in order that it can be studied?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to discuss this matter with the minister and to give consideration to the proposal made by the hon. member.

Mr. Alexander: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the minister responsible for UIC has repeatedly indicated that he proposes to introduce legislation dealing with the UIC, can the minister advise the House if it is still the intention of the government to introduce such legislation and, if so, when?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, unless I am out of touch with the legislative program, it is not the intention to