

## INDUSTRY

## POLICIES TO HALT DECLINE IN PRODUCTION

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the report of the OECD that Canada is the only one of 12 industrial countries to show a slump in industrial production this year, he will say that the government is considering any new policies to halt this decline and to provide adequate employment opportunities in this country?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am informed that this situation arose because of the high number of strikes which were in industries under provincial jurisdiction.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I take it, Mr. Speaker, that the position of the government is that its general economic policy is functioning just as beautifully as its anti-inflationary policy?

## CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY

## USE OF ARCTIC WATERS BY PROPOSED U.S. OIL TANKERS

**Mr. Ian Watson (Laprairie):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. It relates to the announcement the day before yesterday by General Dynamics Corporation that it intends to build six 200,000 ton submarine oil tankers to transport oil through the Northwest Passage, and has made an offer to sell these tankers to six major oil companies involved in the Prudhoe Bay oil field. Since this offer was quite specific, mentioning costs and delivery dates, I would like to know whether the Prime Minister could indicate whether the government of Canada or any government department has been consulted regarding this proposal?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I have not been informed and I thank the hon. member for this information. We will be inquiring into it. As the Prime Minister said in answer to a similar question on this subject, the government's policy with relation to the Arctic waters will be announced in the second part of the session.

## SCIENCE SERVICES

## ACTION ON OECD REPORT

**Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a very direct question to the Secretary of State for

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

External Affairs. Will the government take action on the Canadian science policy report of the United Nations Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development?

Since there is no answer I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. I had intended to direct it to the President of the Treasury Board, but he is not here. Considering recommendations in this new report, and the previous report by the former President of UBC, is the Prime Minister going to announce the decision of the government, one way or another, to rationalize the Medical Research Council, the National Research Council and the section of the Canada Council that provides social science funds into one single grant agency?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I would think that this interesting and important question asked by the hon. member should be replied to by way of a statement on motions.

## COMBINES

## ACTION TO PREVENT TAKEOVER OF CANADIAN COMPANIES BY FOREIGN FIRMS

**Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the startling figures tabled as a return on December 15 this year, showing that since 1963, 606 Canadian firms have been taken over by foreign corporations, can the minister indicate if he is considering specific action to examine and, if necessary, to prevent such foreign takeovers?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I said in a speech the other day that this was a matter of concern to me, and that some of the issues raised by the return that was tabled would have to be dealt with, I hope more effectively, through a revised Combines Act. The matter is very much under study by me.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon. member rising on a question of privilege?

**Mr. Saltsman:** No, on a supplementary question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We have just about reached the end of the question period. Perhaps we might allow the hon. member for Portneuf to ask a question. There might be time for another two or three questions if we deal with them quickly.