

sumers, and will he inform the House whether this action is in line with the government's anti-inflationary program?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, on budget night the Minister of Finance made it very clear he disapproved of agencies, particularly oil companies, handing out credit cards wholesale, and he announced that legislation would be introduced in a matter of weeks.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, do I take it from the minister's answer that the legislation proposed by the government is designed to deal specifically with the transfer of general credit card systems to revolving credit card systems?

Mr. Basford: It is designed to deal with the matters the Minister of Finance discussed in the budget, namely, the level of commercial credit and down payments—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY

THE ARCTIC—ASSERTION BY GOVERNMENT TO U.S. OFFICIAL

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the minister tell the House whether the government asserted Canadian sovereignty over the Canadian Arctic in general and the waters in particular when Mr. Alexis Johnson of the United States State Department led a delegation here last Friday to discuss Canada-U.S. matters such as pollution, fisheries boundaries and laws of the sea?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we informed Mr. Alexis Johnson when he was here exactly what I have informed members of the House and what the Prime Minister has informed the country generally, that we regard these Arctic waters as ours.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED U.S. NUCLEAR TESTS—INFORMATION ON FIRST TESTS

Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, from time to time over the past two months I have asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources whether they

Inquiries of the Ministry

have received information from the United States concerning the first series of nuclear tests at Amchitka in Alaska. As the House will be in recess very soon, Mr. Speaker, would you allow me to redirect the question once more to the Secretary of State for External Affairs?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, we have not yet received this information. We are still inquiring and expect to get it.

POST OFFICE

MONTREAL POSTAL DISPUTE—TRANSFER OF WORKERS' ACQUIRED RIGHTS

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, on Friday I directed a question to the Acting Prime Minister, which he indicated he would turn over to the Prime Minister, with reference to the postal dispute and the Goldenberg inquiry. Would the Prime Minister answer?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Acting Prime Minister did confer with me on some question. I cannot remember, unless the hon. member is specific, what the conference was about.

Mr. Macquarrie: Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the Solicitor General was not specific. It had reference to the Empire Club speech of the Postmaster General and the indication that job guarantees for the workers in Montreal would require legislation. My question was whether this was the point of view of the government and was the commissioner so advised?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I have the answer of the Acting Prime Minister. He said he would be very glad to look into that suggestion and in effect he did look into it with me.

Mr. Macquarrie: Mr. Speaker, that is a very clever but hardly a helpful answer. I think it is very important to know whether the Postmaster General, as reported, was in fact indicating that the job security rights which are so crucial to this dispute can be transferred only through legislation. If that is the point of view of the government, was Commissioner Goldenberg so advised?

Mr. Trudeau: Certainly that is not the position of the government. It is an opinion expressed honestly by a minister who believes in it but the government position