

try. Essentially, what the Export Development Corporation is doing is promoting the sale of Canadian goods. The rates of interest quoted are competitive. As I pointed out to the hon. gentleman, there has been no loss to the Canadian taxpayer in the operation of the Canadian Export Corporation.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether a loan has been made by other corporations in anything like the amount of \$300 million. I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister or anybody on that side of the House what possible justification there can be for keeping from the Canadian people the rate of interest on such a vast loan which could involve a tremendous subsidy on this sale. Why is the government afraid to let Canadians see the full terms of this transaction?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, it has been traditional policy on this, supported by all concerned including the House and businessmen—

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): This is state to state.

Mr. Jamieson: I am grateful to the hon. member, but if he would keep quiet for a moment I was just coming to the fact that it was state to state. It has not been the policy, even on state to state, transactions to disclose interest rates or other specific details on this kind of transaction. If hon. members opposite wish us to increase our export sales they have to realize that this is a highly competitive operation and we must maintain a degree of confidentiality regarding it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON DISCLOSING DETAILS OF SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR TO SOUTH KOREA

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Acting Prime Minister or the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce or the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether it is their view that the sale of a nuclear reactor by Canada is simply a commercial transaction and whether the Canadian people are not entitled to know the details of such a sale?

Mr. Lawrence: There is more than money involved in this.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. gentleman and I am sure he knows already that this is one of the most competitive aspects of world business at the present time.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): You are a bunch of carpetbaggers.

Oral Questions

● (1440)

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

POSSIBILITY PRIME MINISTER MIGHT RESIGN IF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BILL NOT APPROVED BY HOUSE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Solicitor General arises from an earlier question asked by the hon. member for Calgary North. The Solicitor General has stated that if the House votes in support of capital punishment he would have to resign. Now, he has been followed by the Prime Minister making the same statement. If the Prime Minister made that statement and it is clear that he did—

An hon. Member: He did not.

Mr. Diefenbaker:—does the minister not think that if members of parliament can get rid of the Prime Minister only by voting for capital punishment, that is placing a ridiculous temptation before parliament?

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SOCIAL SECURITY

POSSIBLE REPEAL OF SECTION 85 OF CANADA PENSION PLAN GIVING MINISTER RIGHT OF APPEAL

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is the government considering repealing section 85(1) of the Canada Pension Plan, which gives the minister, supported by a battery of judges, lawyers and the federal treasury, the right to appeal to the Pensions Appeal Board in order to prevent an applicant, one Canadian, from receiving his pension even after the case was decided in the applicant's favour by a review committee, after the applicant had gone through a process of medical examination?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, there can be no question of amending this section of the legislation for any reason whatever. This matter was debated last year by the Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs, when the last amendments were made to the Canada Pension Plan. However, when the government appeals the decision of the board, the government pays the cost of the judicial representation for the person against whom an appeal was made. So I think that the government truly considered the requirements of the persons eligible for pension in such circumstances.

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[English]

URBAN AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO RAPID TRANSIT WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs.