

*Oral Questions***THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****ALLEGED INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF LABOUR,
CONSUMER AND ACADEMIC GROUPS AT NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY ECONOMIC COUNCIL**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. I should like to ask him whether his attention has been drawn to complaints that the national economic conference organized by the Economic Council of Canada did not have adequate numbers of representatives from labour, consumer, and academic groups and, if so, whether the minister will discuss the complaints with the chairman of the Economic Council.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have read reports of the complaints, as the hon. gentleman has. I can only say to him that the conference was organized by the Economic Council of Canada, not by the government.

Mr. Orlikow: Would the minister consider discussing with the chairman of the Economic Council the complaint that virtually every study paper presented at that conference was prepared by a group which consisted almost exclusively of representatives of industry and that representatives of other groups had virtually no opportunity to see and to prepare criticisms of those papers before they were presented to the conference?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I will draw the hon. gentleman's remarks to the attention of the chairman. I must remind him, first, that the Economic Council of Canada is an independent organization, independent of government and, second, that a third of its membership is made up of representatives of the labour community.

Mr. Speaker: I have to bring to the attention of hon. members that we will be running short of time very soon and I would hope they would limit the number of supplementaries. I am counting on the co-operation of hon. members so we can see as many members as possible before we reach the end of the question period. I recognize the hon. member for Winnipeg North on a supplementary.

Mr. Orlikow: My question is very simple. Would the minister discuss with the chairman of the Economic Council the possibility that, if they continue to do what they are doing, labour representatives on the Economic Council will consider resigning?

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**INQUIRY WHETHER DIPLOMATIC REPRISALS TAKEN
AGAINST CANADA BECAUSE OF PARLIAMENT HAVING
CONDEMNED BOMBING RAIDS ON NORTH VIET NAM LAST
DECEMBER**

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Could he inform the House whether the United States took any diplomatic reprisals against Canada last winter

[Mr. Gillespie.]

in retaliation for parliament having condemned the December bombing raids against North Viet Nam?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Not that I am aware of, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McKinnon: Is the minister aware of the fact that during January and February Canadian diplomats were advised by the U.S. state department that no one above the level of the Canada desk officer would receive them?

Mr. Speaker: That question should be placed on the order paper.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER**MEASURES OTHER THAN LOCAL INITIATIVES AND
OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS TO FIGHT
UNEMPLOYMENT**

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

In view of the government's increasing lack of interest for the Local Initiatives and Opportunities for Youth programs, would the minister advise the House whether he is considering other means to help Canadians fight unemployment? If so, would he kindly describe what he intends to do?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest that the hon. member is seeking a general statement from the minister, which should normally take place in the House on motions.

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[English]

AIR TRANSPORT**PROPOSED PASSENGER HEAD TAX—CONSIDERATION OF
PROBLEMS RAISED BY INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT
ASSOCIATION**

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. In light of the statement which has been made by the Director General of the International Air Transport Association to the effect that there will be very serious complications in attempting to apply the proposed head tax to international air transport, may I ask the Minister of Transport if these problems were thoroughly considered prior to his announcement? Further, was the head tax proposal discussed with any of the officials of the International Air Transport Association?

● (1550)

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, our department right now is holding discussions with the airline authorities to see what kind of administrative difficulties might be encountered. I have not received any report. As indicated in the press release, we set the date of January 1, but we said that if administra-