

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will send me precise facts concerning his question, I shall answer it directly and precisely.

\* \* \*

[English]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

PROPOSED ADMISSION OF GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE—POSSIBLE VISIT TO CANADA BY TRADE COMMISSIONERS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs what the government's attitude is now toward full membership of the German Democratic Republic in the World Health Organization conference at Stockholm, and is the government now considering looking with favour upon a visit of trade commissioners from the German Democratic Republic to this country?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the position of representation of the German Democratic Republic at the Stockholm conference is dependent upon the rules of the United Nations itself, that is, that the German Democratic Republic should be a member of either the United Nations or one of the subsidiary organizations. So far as I know, it has not yet qualified.

**Mr. Macquarrie:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister to answer the second part of my question relating to the matter of trade commissioners?

**Mr. Sharp:** In answer to the second part of the question, Mr. Speaker, we are, of course, quite prepared to carry on trade with the German Democratic Republic and have been doing so for some years. But we cannot, of course, recognize them officially in any way until we have recognized the government of that country.

\* \* \*

**POLLUTION**

TAPS TANKER ROUTE THREAT—UNITED STATES RESPONSE TO PROPOSED REFERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION—CANADIAN REPRESENTATIONS ON OIL MOVEMENT

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that on April 26, 1972, the minister indicated he had made formal representations to Secretary of State Rogers of the United States to join Canada in making a joint reference to the International Joint Commission of the whole question of pollution of waters of the west coast bordering Canada and the United States, I should like to ask whether the minister received a reply to his formal representations on this matter prior to the news release last week which indicated that the United States would proceed with the trans-Alaska pipeline?

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** No, Mr. Speaker, we have not yet received a reply. We did not receive one before that announcement, nor have we received one since.

**Mr. Harding:** Mr. Speaker, has the minister received any assurance from the United States in reply to Canadian representations that the oil from Alaska will not move through the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Georgia Strait to the refinery at Cherry Point?

**Mr. Sharp:** No, Mr. Speaker. That continues to be the position of the Canadian government. I hope our representations in this respect will be successful because I believe that Cherry Point should be served from the interior so as to minimize the chance of oil spills in that beautiful part of British Columbia.

**Mr. Harding:** Has Canada made any representations to the United States in respect of oil shipments actually being made through Canadian waters to refineries in the Puget Sound area from the oilfields in the Cooke Sound area of Alaska?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, we have made some general representations to the United States about the importance, regardless of what happens, of improving the safeguards against oil spills. This applies, of course, to all shipments, not only those that might come down from Valdez but as well from any other direction. The United States in reply has said to us that of course there is a problem on the east coast as well as on the west coast, and we have said we would like to look at them all together.

\* \* \*

**AIR TRANSPORT**

MANITOBA BILL IMPOSING TAX ON OVERFLIGHTS ACROSS PROVINCE—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO MAINTAIN FREE USE OF AIR SPACE

**Mr. E. B. Osler (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. It is my understanding that a bill has received third reading in the Manitoba legislature, but has not yet received Royal Assent, which would, among other things, charge a 5 per cent tax on overflights across the province. Will the minister look into what means the federal government can take to assure the free use of Canadian air space by all the people of Canada?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hon. member bringing this matter to my attention. I will look into it and report to him later.

\* \* \*

**FINANCE**

STUDENT LOANS—SUGGESTED EXTENSION OF INTEREST-FREE PERIOD BECAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND REVIEW OF REPAYMENT PROCEDURES

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. On