

stone unturned to create greater public disclosure in Canada.

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I was certain the minister would agree that the report of the joint committee on consumer prices of the House of Commons and Senate was a good report. I suspect he wrote part of it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): After all, he was the chairman.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, he was the chairman. I would like to ask the minister whether his amendments in any way affect such problems as the policies to be pursued by Canadian subsidiaries of United States multinational firms in terms of sending assets or money back to their parent companies, or the policies that may be pursued with respect to foreign trade and the like, or are the amendments limited to disclosure only?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, some of the matters the hon. member raises could not properly be covered in a companies act or a corporations act. The amendments I will be drawing and introducing will be concerned solely with the legal framework within which companies in Canada operate, and more specifically those that receive letters patent under the Canada Corporations Act.

[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE

POSSIBILITY OF STRIKING OUT PART DEALING WITH ABORTION

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

In order to establish proper diplomatic relations with the Vatican, does he intend to co-operate with the Minister of Justice to withdraw from the omnibus bill the section legalizing abortion?

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE WITH THE VATICAN—
POSSIBILITY OF DISSENSION

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, the question I am about to direct to the Prime Minister is a personal one. It has to do with references to providing representation to the Vatican. I might point out that I am the only member of this house who has had the the honour of two audiences

Inquiries of the Ministry

with Popes, one with Pope John and one with Pope Paul.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I realize there are arguments on both sides, but does the Prime Minister not realize that Prime Minister King, Prime Minister St. Laurent, Prime Minister Pearson and myself took the stand that if the action were taken of sending a representative to the Vatican it would split this country? Does he not realize, on the basis of the arguments advanced today by the hon. member for York South, that taking this action will bring about a division in this country serious and tremendous in its import?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure that the right hon. gentleman's question is personal but it is certainly argumentative. However, in view of the interest in the matter the Prime Minister might want to reply.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): If you wish, Mr. Speaker. If the right hon. gentleman is right in saying that it will split this country right down the middle, I think the course of the government would be not to exchange representation with the Vatican. But I have cause to doubt his diagnosis of the country's temper on this matter.

SPORTS

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE—POSSIBLE
TRANSFER OF OAKLAND FRANCHISE
TO BUFFALO

Mr. Ray Perrault (Burnaby-Seymour): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Is the government contemplating any action in view of the fact there are strong indications that the National Hockey League board of governors are prepared to approve transfer of the Oakland franchise to Buffalo, contrary to their previous pledge to approve Vancouver as the site of the next N.H.L. franchise?

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure how urgent this matter is but I sense that hon. members would want the minister to reply.

Mr. Baldwin: Get the minister out of the penalty box.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my view of some of the past actions of the governors of the National Hockey League is a matter of public record. I have stated that I have no