

Inquiries of the Ministry

Canada against absolute pollution, and thereby safeguard the health of those in the cities through which they flow?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I have not brought the estimates with me today.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**MAINLAND CHINA—DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. ABOUT RECOGNITION**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): My question is directed to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the right hon. gentleman whether the Canadian government has exchanged correspondence or held any discussions with the United States on the question of Canada's relations with Red China and, if so, what has been the position taken by the United States?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I know of no such correspondence, Mr. Speaker, but of course we did talk with our United States counterparts on this question as we did with the external affairs departments of many other friendly countries. The outcome is the policy which we are now pursuing.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): May I ask whether the Prime Minister has received any advice from the government of the U.S.S.R. or held any discussions with that government on this question?

Mr. Speaker: I hope the hon. member does not propose going through all the nations of the world. Perhaps we might go as far as the U.S.S.R.

Mr. Trudeau: I should like to go that far, Mr. Speaker, and I will ask the minister directly concerned to report to me on it.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Is the recognition of Red China one of the subjects for discussion between the Prime Minister and Mr. Nixon at the forthcoming meeting in Washington, and was this so signified in the president's invitation?

Mr. Trudeau: The agenda will be negotiated between the President's office and mine, and our foreign affairs departments. Until an agenda has been established I would not want to go into details about it. But I hardly think this particular question would be the subject of many talks, because our policy is already

[Mr. Woolliams.]

established. I would be very glad however to extend some advice to the President of the United States, if he were to ask for it.

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Is it true that the State Department of the United States now believes it would be a good idea for Canada to recognize Red China?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**TRANSFER OF DIRECTION OF WORK AT TRANSCONA SHOPS**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport? In view of reports from Winnipeg that the direction of work at the C.N.R. shops in Transcona is being transferred from Winnipeg to Montreal, will the minister make it clear that this will not mean the transfer of work from Transcona, as happened in the case of the Air Canada operation at Winnipeg?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): I must admit I am not familiar with this particular problem but I shall be glad to inquire of the railway company and reassure the hon. gentleman, if that is the result of my consultation.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Will the minister do that in the house at an early date?

Mr. Hellyer: At the earliest possible opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

DIFFICULTIES IN OPERATION OF TURBOTRAIN

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport, or for the acting minister to whom notice has been given. Has the minister any information on the turbo-train fiasco, and whose responsibility it was?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am not sure that the question as asked is in order. Certainly it is in rather strong terms. Perhaps the hon. member might like to rephrase the question. In any event, I doubt that the question should be answered at this time. The hon. member is asking for a report which, in my view, ought to be made on motions.

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, I shall try again at your invitation. Has the acting minister any information on the latest turbo-train difficulties?