

statement is accurate. The minister has denied he made such a statement; therefore I have nothing to say.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Fundy-Royal.

**Mr. Saltsman:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member rises on a point of order. I apologize to the hon. member for Fundy-Royal. I will return to him in a brief moment, I hope.

**Mr. Saltsman:** I wonder whether I might ask the question directly of the Acting Prime Minister. Has the government taken a position regarding the development of the \$6 billion—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is hardly a point of order. The hon. member for Fundy-Royal.

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#### OIL

PROPOSED TAPS TANKER ROUTE—GOVERNMENT POLICY RESPECTING STRAIT OF GEORGIA—FORMAL EXPRESSION TO UNITED STATES OF OPPOSITION

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I will try the Acting Prime Minister on government policy. Was the minister responsible for the environment speaking for himself or was he enunciating government policy when he recently said it will be necessary to "prevent oil companies coming into the Strait of Georgia?" If so, is the Secretary of State for External Affairs going to express Canada's formal opposition to the TAPS route at his meeting in Washington on June 10?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I join with the Minister of Fisheries, who will be responsible for the environment, in saying that our particular concern about the movement of oil down the Pacific coast relates to those narrow waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Strait of Georgia. This is the area about which we have the most concern and on which we will be making the strongest representations to the United States government.

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre):** I would like to ask the Acting Prime Minister or the minister who will be in charge of the environment if this means that they are going to stop the present oil tankers carrying oil to the city of Victoria?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of tankers taking crude oil to the city of Victoria. There are no refineries there.

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#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EAST PAKISTAN—REQUESTS FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN CANADA

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether the

#### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

government has received requests from political exiles in East Pakistan for political asylum in this country? If so, what has been the response thereto?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** The answer is not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, but I will make inquiries and report.

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#### GRAIN

RESUMPTION OF PAYMENTS UNDER TEMPORARY WHEAT RESERVES ACT AND PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE ACT TO INCREASE FARM INCOME

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** My question is for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the general decrease in farm income in 1970, with the major part of that decline occurring in the Prairie provinces, will the government reconsider its proposal to discontinue payments under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act and the Prairie Farm Assistance Act at least for this year or until the farm economy has a chance to recover from the present serious income decline?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to move ahead with the legislation to replace these measures. I think it will be much more valuable than anything that has been done in the past.

**Mr. Gleave:** My supplementary question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Can the minister give some assurance to the House that he will press the government to consider the very serious situation of agriculture in the prairie region?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, and I have been doing that for many months.

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#### HOUSE OF COMMONS

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS TO MINISTER OF FINANCE

**Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Renfrew North):** May I through you, Mr. Speaker, wish the Minister of Finance a happy birthday—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hopkins:** —and an extremely prosperous economy in the years ahead.

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#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PRESENCE OF JAPANESE VESSELS FISHING FOR SALMON OFF GREENLAND

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, I have a serious question for the Acting Prime Minister. Can he report on the questions raised in the House on Wednesday with regard to the report of the presence