

the Indians with the necessary funds to enable them to fight their case in court and we have given them all the support they sought from us. Now we have to wait to see what the decision of the court will be. We expect the decision to be made known in a few weeks.

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Is it the government's position that the settlement of Indian rights is more social and political than legal and, if so, is the government prepared to broaden the restrictive legal approach it has so far taken to native rights in the James Bay area?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, we have tried during the past three years to have the Indians and Quebec authorities meet in order to find a solution. We attended all the negotiation meetings, except that at a certain moment, the Indians have deemed advisable to suspend the discussions and go before the courts. We then helped them to plead their case before the court. I must say that the Indians have done it quite satisfactorily up to now and I have nothing to reproach them; I do not think that we should be paternalistic and act for the Indians in such a debate.

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[English]

FINANCE

INQUIRY RESPECTING GUARANTEE BY BANKS OF NO INCREASE IN MORTGAGE INSURANCE AND APPRAISAL FEES AND AMORTIZATION PERIOD

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In addition to the guarantee the minister indicated to the House yesterday he had obtained from the banks that they would not increase their magnanimously low interest rate of 10 per cent on mortgages and that mortgages would continue to be made available, did he obtain from the banks also a guarantee that they would not increase the variety of charges that go with mortgages, for instance, mortgage insurance fees, appraisal fees and the period of amortization of such mortgages?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly see whether there is any substance to the allegation of the hon. member.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member in a moment. There are five, six or more members seeking supplementaries. If we do this with every question we will not get far during the question period. I will recognize the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby and then the hon. member for Davenport.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister has been confused by a certain convention going on now. My question was a question and not an allegation. I asked the minister if he would check and obtain from the banks a guarantee that they will not increase the range of service charges that are permitted to them and that go with the mortgage loans they make to people.

Oral Questions

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly make that inquiry.

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FOOD PRICES

EFFICACY OF UNITED STATES CONTROLS

Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the fact that in recent weeks the retail price of bacon has dropped from \$1.79 to \$1.19 this weekend, owing to the policies of this government—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Caccia:—may I ask the President of the Treasury Board if he will make funds available immediately to members of the Official Opposition so they may visit the United States and see for themselves the disastrous consequences of the control policies that they are recommending to the Canadian people?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

POSITION OF MINISTER OF FINANCE ON POSSIBLE PRICES AND INCOMES POLICY

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. We are all pleased that he is surviving the battle raging at the Chateau Laurier. Knowing that the minister is an ambitious man, Mr. Speaker, and in view of the growing body of support within the Liberal party for a wages and prices policy—

Mr. Fairweather: Or any policy.

Mr. McGrath:—or any kind of policy to deal with inflation, for that matter, may I ask the ambitious Minister of Finance, and I know he will weigh his answer very carefully—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are running short of time. Perhaps the hon. member might come to his question.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I was merely trying to establish reasonable grounds for my question so the minister could give a reasoned reply. Will the minister, in view of the growing body of support within the Liberal party for a prices and incomes policy, now reconsider his attitude in this regard?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will be quite prepared to arrange for the hon.