

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): In view of the importance of continuing discussions with France in connection with treaty rights off our east coast, especially in terms of implementing our pollution legislation, may I ask whether talks aimed at reaching a satisfactory settlement of this treaty which we inherited from Great Britain are still going on with the French government? If not, why not?

Mr. Sharp: The subject matter is still the subject of discussions between the two governments. There have not recently been any discussions on the subject, however.

Mr. Stanfield: It is still a matter of discussion but there are no discussions.

PROPOSED AMCHITKA UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is related to the question which was asked by the hon. member for Victoria the other day. Having in mind the announced intention of the United States to proceed with a further massive nuclear test in the Aleutian area next fall and the increasing concern over this proposal in Alaska and British Columbia, will the minister check on this situation, particularly the reported danger of radioactive hydrogen leaking into the Pacific and contaminating its waters?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has made a representation to the minister and he has to assume it will be taken into consideration by him.

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HOUSING

ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRAL MORTGAGE BANK

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): My question is addressed to the minister responsible for housing and it is supplemental to that asked by the hon. member for Broadview. In view of the minister's willingness to participate in the setting up of some form of central mortgage bank, as recommended by the task force on housing and urban affairs, which would be a base for new mortgage institutions and would lead to further liquidity, is it the hon. gentleman's intention to lay before this House legislation leading to the creation of such a central mortgage bank?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): We held an exploratory discussion in September with the approved lenders and again, the other day, with the trustee pension fund representatives, during which this suggestion was considered as a possible way to provide increased marketability for mortgages. It was not announced as government policy but it is an interesting proposition which we shall be exploring in more detail, and if the indications are that we should make this recommendation I will say so to my colleagues and, if accepted, naturally we would bring the matter before Parliament.

[Mr. Sharp.]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain.

Mr. Alexander: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, with all due respect and all possible deference, I hope that we on the backbenches do not escape your eye. We are very patiently expecting some recognition, and in view of the fact that I have only had an opportunity to ask a couple of questions this week I hope Your Honour will give me a chance to ask a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member might be interested to know that the question period had already expired when I recognized him and, later, the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain. I think this is showing some forbearance and co-operation.

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GRAIN

PROPOSED RECEIPTS CHECK-OFF TO FINANCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Has the minister received an urgent request from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture asking that the new Canada Grain Act include a provision for a check-off on grain receipts to assist in financing research and development as part of a national effort in this field?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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BROADCASTING

EDITING OF NATIONAL NEWS ON BUDGET BASIS

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): I wish to address my question to the Secretary of State. In view of the CBC and CTV practice of editing the national news on a budget basis from such places as Vancouver and Halifax when such is not done in the case of news stories from Toronto, Montreal or Ottawa, will the minister use his office to discourage this practice of discrimination against some parts of Canada?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that he is making a representation to the government; he has to assume it will be taken into account. Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

OLD AGE SECURITY

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING AMOUNT OF PENSION,
MAXIMUM SUPPLEMENT AND
ESCALATION THEREOF

The House resumed from Wednesday, December 9, consideration of the motion of Mr. Munro that Bill C-202, to amend the Old Age Security Act, be read the second