

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[English]

## UNITED NATIONS

EXPULSION OF TAIWAN—CANADIAN ACTION TO EXPEL  
BYELORUSSIA AND UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST  
REPUBLIC

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the reasons given by the Canadian government for supporting the resolution at the United Nations which in effect expelled the government of Taiwan as not being the *de facto* government of China, does the government intend to undertake steps at the United Nations to see that the governments of Byelorussia and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic are expelled on the same grounds?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest that this is debate. I apologize to the many hon. members who have not had an opportunity to ask their questions. I have tried to make a mental note of them as they rose during the question period and will attempt to give them preference tomorrow.

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[Translation]

## POLLUTION

MEETING WITH UNITED STATES AND U.S.S.R. TO  
PROTECT NORTHERN ECOLOGY

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the hon. member for Charlevoix have a supplementary?

**Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Would the Prime Minister tell us whether, in his discussions with the Russian Premier, any mention was made of a summit meeting between Canada, the United States and the USSR to deal with the questions of the pollution of northern waters and the rational development of those waters?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I raised that question when I visited the USSR in May. At that time, the Russian government indicated that it was not interested in a summit or other level of meeting between the several countries interested in the Arctic. So, this time, I did not suggest such a meeting. Instead we discussed a treaty which could be signed by all interested nations. I must admit that the Russians did not appear very enthusiastic about that either.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

**Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for Sainte-Marie raises a question of privilege.

**Mr. Valade:** Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege is as follows: The leaders of the various parties had agreed on the establishment of a list of ministers who would act for those compelled to be absent from the House on official business. According to that list, the minister responsible for manpower was to be present to answer questions

relating to employment, labour and unemployment in Canada.

A short while ago, I asked a question to the government, in the absence of the responsible minister and no minister gave me a reply. My question was warranted, Mr. Speaker, since a minister of the Crown stated yesterday in Montreal that unemployment was to reach a rate of 12 per cent in the province of Quebec in the next few months.

Here is my question of privilege: If members of the opposition cannot get answers from the ministers designated to replace those who are not here, and if no other minister answers our questions, I feel that we are being deprived of a fundamental right—that of having our questions on crucial or current problems answered.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that my question of privilege will be taken into consideration, and that we will be assured that in the absence of a minister who should be here, the government will, through his spokesman, the right hon. Prime Minister, answer the questions asked.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I know you do not like this matter to be discussed in the House. I would only suggest to the hon. member that perhaps he is getting the roster wrong since neither the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, nor the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, nor even the Minister of Labour is on the list for today.

Once again, I think the hon. member is barking up the wrong tree.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I do not believe there should be a debate on that point.

**Mr. Valade:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member cannot speak a second time on a question of privilege. He submitted the problem to the Chair and the Prime Minister answered. I do not think the question should be pursued further.

If the hon. member wants to raise a question of privilege once again, I will listen to him, but under the rules, a member is not allowed to speak more than once on the same question of privilege.

The hon. member has raised the problem and it will be considered.

**Mr. Valade:** I rise on a question of privilege once again, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has another question of privilege.

**Mr. Valade:** Mr. Speaker, I am raising this question of privilege in reply to the Prime Minister who did not answer my first question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. This is not another question of privilege, but the same that gave rise to a debate between the Prime Minister and the hon. member, which I cannot allow.

[English]

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The debate which is being pursued by hon. members on both sides of the House