

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will admit, I am sure, that his question is of a general nature, and any answer must be in the form of a statement on motions.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I shall rephrase my question.

Since the White Paper on Fiscal Reform, recently tabled by the government, shows that half of those who earn less than \$3,000 per year will be exempt from income tax, does the Prime Minister intend to make known in the near future what we he has in mind for the other half?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the member has already answered the first question, and I was just going to say that the White Paper is designed precisely to help those people who in this country have an insufficient income. However, before talking about helping the other half, we are waiting for greater support on the part of the member and opposition parties with a view to helping the half that is worse off.

Mr. Fortin: As I was elected precisely to help the half that the government does not assist, I would like to ask the Prime Minister if he intends to make a statement regarding the fate that his government has in store for that other half, taking for granted the opposition's co-operation.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, first we must be helped in order to help everyone.

[*English*]

CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY**PROJECTED SECOND VOYAGE BY "MANHATTAN" THROUGH NORTHWEST PASSAGE**

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the government which involves overlapping ministries so perhaps I had better direct it to the right hon. Prime Minister who can have the appropriate minister answer. Has the government been in discussion with the Humble Oil Company or the United States government with respect to plans for a second voyage of the *Manhattan*?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this question overlaps at least two or three others asked this week which have been answered by the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

[*Mr. Fortin.*]

Mr. Nesbitt: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, and a question of privilege. I beg to differ with the right hon. gentleman, but the question has not been answered nor to my knowledge has it been asked in the House. There were other related questions but not this one specifically. I repeat: Has the government or any department been in discussion with the Humble Oil Company or the United States government with respect to plans for a second *Manhattan* voyage?

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member has simply reiterated the question asked in the first place.

Mr. Nesbitt: Mr. Speaker, if the right hon. Prime Minister does not care to answer the question perhaps I can direct it to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development or the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It appears that nobody will answer it.

OIL**REPORTED SECRET AGREEMENT ON EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES—REDUCTION OF VOLUME**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. When speaking in Calgary he said that exports of crude petroleum to the United States amounting to 800,000 barrels a day would be cut in half by reason of a secret agreement the government had with the United States. Would he care to comment on the secret agreement?

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure whether the question asked is in correct form in regard to the subject matter but perhaps the minister should be allowed to answer.

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure which press report my friend is referring to but there is no secret agreement, of course. The correspondence was tabled some time ago in respect of our agreement with the United States in this area. What I said to the meeting was that the nominations in the region of 800,000 barrels a day are extremely difficult for the American administration and they are far beyond the amount in the letters that have been tabled. I indicated that there probably would have to be a cutback but I did not indicate any quantities.

Mr. Woolliams: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister has now said that