

Oral Questions

ble measures. Whether or not we will consider the hon. lady's suggestion I can neither confirm nor deny. The hon. lady's suggestion is a matter which would be budgetary in nature.

[Translation]

PREDICTED FIFTY PER CENT LOSS IN BUYING POWER OF
CANADIAN DOLLAR—POSITION OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance.

In view of the fact that I already put the question to the right hon. Prime Minister who was to refer it to the Minister of Finance, and that I have yet not received an answer, I believe it necessary to reiterate my question.

Economists of the Royal Bank of Canada indicated recently that within 10 years the Canadian dollar would depreciate by 50 per cent, which would reduce by the same rate the buying power of Canadians, has the minister studied this report and, if so, what does he intend to do to limit this loss in buying power for Canadians?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I had difficulty hearing the question because of the enthusiasm shown in certain parts of this House. In any case, I considered the report. The hon. member's question is based on an assumption and I have no other comment to make.

Mr. Caouette (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question.

Although the minister considers it to be an assumption, I would point out that serious people undertook this study. Is the minister prepared to examine it more seriously and accept its conclusion that one of the major means of increasing the revenues of Canadians is to reduce taxes?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would study and read again the report. The question as to whether I agree or will agree with the conclusions of the report will depend eventually on my opinion of it.

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[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

STORAGE OF NUCLEAR OR ATOMIC WARHEADS IN CANADA—
CONTROL THEREOF

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Are nuclear or atomic warheads for missiles or weapons held at Comox, B.C., or at any other site or sites in Canada?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, none of our aircraft are equipped with nuclear missiles, but we do have in storage, and this has been public knowledge for several years—nuclear missiles at Comox and at the other bases from which our interceptor squadrons take off.

Mr. McKinnon: Are such warheads solely under Canadian control and, among the aspects of such control, could a decision to return the warheads to the United

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

States be taken unilaterally by Canada, or are we bound by the NORAD agreement to accept NORAD combined directions?

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, the missiles are under the joint control of Canadian and American authorities. They could be sent back by Canadian direction.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

STOLEN SOCIAL INSURANCE CARD—ALLEGED REQUEST TO
PERSON TO CHANGE NAME

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the answer given to me last Friday by the Acting Prime Minister that it was not government policy to have a Canadian citizen change his legal name in order to secure a new social insurance number when it is known that the original number is being used illegally, what immediate, specific action will the minister undertake to secure for my constituent a new social insurance number?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I share the hon. member's concern about the ridiculous nature of the situation as he described it. I am checking all the facts to see that it is exactly as it was presented. If that is the case, we will simply have to find some better way to handle such cases.

Mr. Kempling: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of National Revenue. Can the minister advise why, when a request was made by one of my constituents on January 12, 1973, for an investigation of the fraudulent use of a social insurance number, no such investigation was made? Further, will the minister advise if an investigation is now in progress?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, it is not the function of my department to investigate the fraudulent use of social insurance numbers. However, I have asked my department to do everything possible within its jurisdiction to assist the hon. member's constituent, and I hope we can help to resolve his difficulty.

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TRANSPORT

PROPOSED RAILWAY FROM ARCTIC TO HAUL GAS AND OIL—
CONSIDERATION BEFORE DECISION MADE ON GAS PIPELINE
APPLICATION

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Some months ago, after studies by the Canadian Institute of Guided Ground Transit at Queen's University had shown that a railway from the Arctic to haul oil and gas was feasible, I suggested that the government should look into this. The Department of Transport then set up a CP-CN study which has