

Mr. Fraser: Is the minister advising us that those questions have not yet been answered or communicated to the CLC?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): It is not a matter of question and response. It is a matter of discussion. Those matters are among the subjects which have been discussed.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EXPULSION OF PRESS ATTACHÉ OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. It arises because of further press reporting about the removal of the press secretary of the Chinese embassy. Over the weekend it has been stated that he was an espionage courier. I am referring to a UPI dispatch copied in the Toronto *Star* in which it states that he took weekend trips to Washington to pick up secrets and military information, then returned to Ottawa and transmitted them to mainland China. In view of these further statements, is the Acting Prime Minister prepared to elucidate the reasons for this envoy ejected from Canada?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as my colleague the Secretary of State for External Affairs said, the reason was that he was carrying on activities incompatible with his position as a diplomat. That is what he has said, and I have nothing further to add.

Mr. Diefenbaker: In view of the pall of silence placed over this incident because we might annoy communist China if details were to be publicly revealed, will the information regarding this matter be made available to opposition members who are of the Privy Council, so that, while unrevealed by them, it will nonetheless give an assurance which up to the present time certainly has not been given? There is something in connection with this matter which reminds me of Shakespeare when he said that "something is rotten in the state of Denmark" which is being covered up.

Mr. Sharp: There are occasions when it might be useful to follow this procedure. I can assure the right hon. gentleman that we have nothing to hide which would in any way reflect upon the integrity of the Government of Canada. I will convey the suggestion he has made to my colleague when he returns.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

REDUCTION OF FUNDING OF NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING IN BERGER COMMISSION HEARINGS—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question and put one or two supple-

Oral Questions

mentaries to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development arising out of answers the minister gave on April 24 to my questions concerning the cutback in funding to native organizations taking part in the Berger Commission inquiry. In view of the undertaking of the minister to look again at the level of financial support, and in view of the representations which have been made, is the minister now in a position to assure the House that the funds provided to native groups in the Northwest Territories will be increased to a level which will permit their effective participation in the upcoming community hearings?

● (1430)

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the hon. member, I have looked again at the situation and have had discussions with Mr. Justice Berger. The commission counsel will be here in the next two or three days to look at the situation. We want to see if we can earmark some of the funds going into his budget to assist some of the native people in having the environmentalists appear as their witnesses.

Mr. Firth: Mr. Speaker, will the minister elaborate on his reference last week to the possibility of funding being provided through the Berger commission budget? Also, is the minister now in a position to inform the House whether funds will be made available to the northern assessment group?

Mr. Buchanan: Mr. Speaker, I really cannot elaborate very much until we have this meeting with the counsel to Mr. Justice Berger's commission. The thought was that the funds would flow through this body to provide the native people with funds so that if they wished to have representatives of the northern assessment group appear as witnesses before the commission, they could do so.

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[Translation]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

TRANSPORTATION OF ALASKAN OIL—STATUS OF UNITED STATES LEGISLATION AND ALTERNATIVE PORT

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of the Environment.

In reply to questions recently put to her, the minister stated she was extremely pleased with the fact that a bill is now being studied by American authorities with a view to financing the construction of a pipeline providing an alternate site for the delivery of crude from Alaska. Can the minister now tell us what progress has been made on that bill and whether the Canadian government was consulted on the choice of alternate sites?

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the hon. member any information on the fate of that bill now before the state legislature of Washington. I know it was introduced, but am not aware of what the legislators of that state will do with it. As for consultations that may have been held between the