

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

testing in the atmosphere which has now been signed, and to participate in the discussions on the banning of all other kinds of testing?

**Mr. Sharp:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think this kind of representation would be a good deal more fruitful than a simple protest. They know our position. This is the line we have been following. We will be urging the Chinese and the French to participate in the ban on nuclear testing in the atmosphere, and to follow the Canadian position which is that all kinds of nuclear testing should be abandoned.

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[Translation]

**FAMILY INCOME SECURITY****FAMILY ALLOWANCES—REQUEST FOR PROGRAM  
ADVANTAGEOUS TO FAMILIES**

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

I would ask him whether a date has been agreed upon between officials of the Department of National Health and Welfare and their counterparts in Quebec in order to find an acceptable repatriation formula for family allowances and, if so, could he assure the House that this formula will be more acceptable to families than to provinces?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Quebec premier sent me a telegram on Friday to inform me that he proposed that our officials should meet to discuss this problem. I feel that the point made by the hon. member with regard to the importance of worrying about families rather than provinces or governments is well taken, and we will keep it in mind.

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[English]

**ENERGY****PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—  
ACCEPTANCE BY GOVERNMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
CORRIDOR STUDY CONCLUSIONS**

**Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It is prompted by statements reportedly made by the Minister of State in Calgary over the weekend. Has the government accepted the basic general conclusions of the transportation corridor study relative to the Mackenzie River valley by Canadian National Railways and the Alberta Gas Trunk Line Company Limited?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I would hope the question could be asked directly. I have suggested to hon. members previously that it is not quite in order to ask questions about statements made outside the House unless they are asked of the Prime Minister to inquire whether a statement made outside the House represents government policy. The hon. member, however, is entitled to ask the question of the minister directly.

[Mr. Lewis.]

**Mr. Aiken:** Mr. Speaker, I had attempted to do that, but in any case may I ask the minister directly the question I have already outlined?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, we have stated, as early as last August, that we would create a corridor for the construction of gas and oil pipelines in the north. However, we have not yet reached a final decision with regard to this corridor; when this is done we shall inform hon. members.

[English]

**Mr. Aiken:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister whether the government has been provided with a copy of the report on this subject reportedly released today by the government of the United States in Washington?

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that a report on this subject has been published today by the United States government.

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[English]

**GRAIN****WHEAT—INQUIRY AS TO DATE OF ACREAGE PAYMENTS**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the Minister of Justice. It has to do with the matter of acreage payments being made by the government of Canada, based on the amount of money estimated to be that which a two-price system would provide. I think it was some three weeks ago that he said an announcement would be made shortly. Naturally, the farmers out west, as the spring work is approaching, are anxious to know when they are going to get the payments.

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, what I indicated a few weeks ago would be announced shortly was the manner of distribution of the money, and that was announced some time ago. We are working on the exact figures and the manner of payment now. I would expect that the actual distribution, for the first time in connection with 1972, would be made some time in the month of April.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I do not quite understand the meaning of "distribution for the first time." What is the meaning of those words?

**Mr. Lang:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I am talking about this year's payment.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Oh, I see, Mr. Speaker. Does the date of the distribution bear any relationship to the metaphysical musings of the Prime Minister on "Encounter" yesterday, as to the possible date of an election?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.