

Oral Questions

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, no formal communication in that sense was made and nothing, therefore, can be tabled.

Mr. Lundrigan: In view of the fact that 1969 government policy is beginning to show its head again and as it had such a detrimental effect on slow growth areas, can the minister indicate what guarantee to the slow growth areas in Canada there is that the policy will not have a very serious effect on unemployment?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Since I cannot accept the preamble, I ask the hon. member not to accept the conclusion.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Calgary North and then we will try to move to the next subject or perhaps go back to the first question and allow the hon. member for New Westminster his supplementary.

BANK INTEREST RATE INCREASES—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE THAT HOUSING INTEREST RATES WILL NOT BE INCREASED

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of State for Urban Affairs responsible for housing whether he will assure the House now, because interest rates are one of the ingredients that have added considerably to the cost of housing which has gone up 100 per cent in the last five years, that there will not be any increase in rents, first, on uninsured direct loans out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and, second, on all loans which are insured by CMHC to protect Canadians in the purchase of houses?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the interest rate payable under the insured loan provisions of the National Housing Act is set out in the act by legislation, not by the minister or the government.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to be argumentative and I appreciate what the minister says, but would he be prepared to see written in the legislation a guarantee to the nation that there will not be a considerable increase in the cost of housing at this time when we are in a national crisis?

Mr. Basford: If it is the type of amendment that it appears the hon. member is suggesting, it would result in no insured loans being made at all.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF 100-MILE PROVISION OF ARCTIC WATERS POLLUTION PREVENTION ACT ON WEST COAST

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. In view of the statement he made in the House today and in view of the continuing pressure by the United States

[Mr. Lundrigan.]

administration to commence the tanker route, will the minister now consider implementing the 100-mile provision of the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act on the west coast to assist him in his negotiations?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, my impression of the hon. member's question is that he is asking that the Arctic waters pollution provisions be implemented on both our coasts. Were that to be done, it would of course, intersect some of the world's major shipping lanes.

Mr. Leggatt: In view of the statement the minister made today, can he give us some indication of when the government will take a definitive position with regard to alternatives to the TAPS route because at present there is no assistance being given to U.S. authorities to change that route?

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HEALTH

REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN ESTIMATES FOR CANCER AND HEART RESEARCH

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare which I wish to direct also to the Minister of State for Science and Technology. Will the Minister of National Health and Welfare reconsider his estimates for the present year, in consultation with the Minister of State for Science and Technology, with a view to making a substantial increase for cancer research and at least a small contribution to heart disease research since the present government has about the worst record in the western world in this regard?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

INQUIRY RESPECTING IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Since reports often remain a dead letter and are ignored, could the Prime Minister say whether he intends to follow through with the recommendations of the Commissioner of Official Languages?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that I have understood the whole question, including the premise, but in answer to the question itself, we do intend, of course, to follow through with the recommendations of the commissioner. Furthermore, we always consider them carefully and we are very pleased in fact that they spur many people on concerning the application of the Official Languages Act.