

expressed their concern about the high mortgage interest rates. Yesterday in the House of Commons the Minister of Finance indicated that he was now looking at the high mortgage interest problem affecting thousands of Canadians, and the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs indicated outside the House that they were looking specifically at the Interest Act. Can the Minister put a time frame on this consideration and decision-making process, and can he tell this House when in days or weeks he might have a proposal to put forth?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): That is a question which the Government will study in due time and to which it will reply in due time as well. The Hon. Member is aware of the many representations we have made to the financial institutions, and we will continue to make them. Should there be any changes in our policies, they will be announced in due course.

[English]

PLIGHT OF HOME OWNERS WITH HIGH INTEREST RATE MORTGAGES

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Madam Speaker, we have been bringing this matter to the Government's attention since March, 1983. I would hope that six months would be enough time to consider it. In view of the fact that as of January of this year, according to CMHC figures, 700,000 Canadians had mortgages with interest rates of 17 per cent and higher, and in view of the fact that the Minister of Finance has concluded that moral suasion has not been sufficient, will the Minister set a time when representatives of all three Parties can sit down with him to discuss the problem in the hope of getting a speedy resolution?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I have already received representations from Members of all parties in that respect.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADIAN REPRESENTATION AT KOREAN NATIONAL FUNERAL SERVICE

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my question is for the secretary of State for External Affairs. Will he indicate to the House which Cabinet Minister or Ministers will be representing Canada at the national funeral service in Korea for the Koreans who were killed by a bomb in Burma, including four Cabinet Ministers? Will he also indicate what specific instructions have been given to our representative that he may offer in the form of assistance to the Koreans with respect to the ensuing investigation?

Oral Questions

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has raised the matter of the great tragedy that has occurred. We, as Canadians and Members of the House of Commons, have been very saddened and shocked at the loss of life as a result of the assassinations that have taken place. We have expressed our condolences to the Government of Korea. I have sent a message, and the Prime Minister has sent a message.

With respect to representation at the funeral, I authorized the head of the Canadian delegation attending the Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting in Seoul to represent the Government of Canada. I thought that was the appropriate way to have the House of Commons and the Government represented, by designating the Chairman of the Canadian delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union now meeting in Seoul, Korea.

INVESTIGATION OF BOMBING

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, will the Minister indicate specifically whether our representative has been authorized to offer any specific assistance to the Korean Government with respect to the ongoing investigation of this tragic bombing? If the delegate has not been so authorized, will that offer be forthcoming?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I have not asked the representative to make that offer to the Government of Korea, but I think that we would help in any way we could. I will certainly bear in mind the suggestion made by the Hon. Member and ascertain whether there is any assistance we could offer in the investigation that is being conducted not only, presumably, by the Government of South Korea but by the Government of Burma.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SIDNEY JAFFE—REQUEST FOR CHECK ON PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. In order legally to establish his residence in San Francisco, Mr. Sidney Jaffe testified at a July, 1979, bankruptcy hearing in a United States district court in San Francisco that he had moved with his wife and all of his business records to San Francisco in 1977. In view of this statement, will the Government check Mr. Jaffe's T-1 and T-40 income tax returns for the four years immediately preceding his application under the Canadian Citizenship Act as a legal statement regarding the residency intentions of Mr. Jaffe during this period?

Hon. Serge Joyal (Secretary of State): Madam Speaker, so far as the residence statement on any application for citizenship is concerned, I draw the attention of the Hon. Member to a judgment of a federal judge of the Court of Appeal dated