

week and, if so, who will sign it on behalf of the government?

[Later:]

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): If there is an agreement to be signed, Mr. Speaker, it will be signed by the responsible minister as provided for by the legislation.

[English]

Mr. McCleave: Lou don't even know, do you?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ALLEGED INFILTRATION OF PARTI QUEBECOIS

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice who I believe is Acting Solicitor General today. Has the minister seen a statement attributed to Mr. Claude Charron, a member of the Parti Quebecois and of the Quebec National Assembly, to the effect that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have infiltrated the Parti Quebecois? If the minister has seen that statement, would he care to comment on it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question would have to be asked directly. The hon. member cannot ask the minister to comment on a statement which has been made outside the House. Perhaps he might ask the question in another form.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I think it had to be prefaced in that way so that it would be put in the proper context, but may I ask whether the RCMP are in fact infiltrating the Parti Quebecois?

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADIAN FOREIGN AID—INSTITUTION OF BIRTH CONTROL MEASURES BY RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has he considered or will he consider any plans to make Canada's foreign aid to over-populated countries contingent upon those countries instituting birth control or family planning measures?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

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POLLUTION

THREAT POSED BY TANKER TRANSPORT OF OIL FROM VALDEZ, ALASKA, TO CHERRY POINT, WASHINGTON

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External

Inquiries of the Ministry

Affairs. Having in mind the statement made over the weekend by his colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, to the effect that Canada is strongly opposed to the shipment of oil by tanker from Alaska down the British Columbia coast to Washington refineries, and the minister's own statement that only the co-operation of the United States can help to meet this threat of pollution, can the minister indicate what the policy of the government is on this very important matter?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the statement made in the speech by my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and the statement I made I hope indicated our very serious concern about the dangers of pollution arising from the movement of oil by tanker down the Pacific coast, and we hope that public opinion both in Canada and the United States will be aroused to avoid a possible disaster.

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, would the minister care to tell us what alternatives the government is proposing which it would favour?

Mr. Sharp: As my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, has said, we certainly would be prepared to consider a pipeline down the Mackenzie valley but, as hon. members probably know, objections have been raised even to that particular route.

Mr. Yewchuk: Can the minister indicate whether the government is doing any studies of this route to see whether it is the best one for Canada?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, we have been doing some studies on the ecological consequences of a pipeline, which I think is one of the first bits of information we would need before a firm decision could be made either by us or by anyone else, such as an American company that might want to build such a pipeline.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Hales: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. Earlier in the proceedings today the Minister of Finance, in answer to a question put by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre regarding the return of 42 cents to him by disgruntled senior citizens, said, and I think I am quoting his words, "I hope that all members of the House will be honest enough to send the money to the Minister of Finance". The minister left the implication that all members of this chamber may not be honest enough to do so. I think the minister should not have used the words "honest enough."

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, if there was any implication that I meant people in the House were dishonest I apologize sincerely. May I say I do not think I will get many cheques for \$28 from the people in Canada who really needed the increase in the supplementary old age pension.