

Inquiries of the Ministry

in the Financial Administration Act and not those given to him by the government?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again I would suggest that we are embarking on the field of debate. I suggest that we recognize the hon. member for Hillsborough.

POST OFFICE**MONTREAL POSTAL DISPUTE—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PRESENT POSITION**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister dealing with the Montreal postal dispute. Considering that the government's imposed deadline is almost upon us, can the Prime Minister advise whether there has been any recent change in the government's position? I ask this today particularly because of the widely disseminated weekend reports that two of his ministers had gone to Montreal to advise the CNTU to hang on.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, there is no change in the government's policy. It is being explained to the members of the union as clearly as possible. We hope they will accept it. As to the latter canard, I have no knowledge of it. If any ministers were in Montreal, it certainly was not for that function.

CRIMINAL CODE**ABORTION—INQUIRY AS TO FURTHER AMENDMENT**

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. In view of the legislation just passed in the State of New York making abortion a private matter between the pregnant woman and her doctor, is the minister considering amendment of the Criminal Code to bring about a similar situation in Canada?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Not imminently, Mr. Speaker, although we are reviewing the statistics pursuant to the recent amendments to the Criminal Code.

Mrs. MacInnis: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister take an early opportunity to outline on motions the government's policy for removing the discrimination between Canadian women who can afford to go to New York for an abortion and those who cannot do so?

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**DEVELOPMENT OF ABM SYSTEM—SUPPORT FOR MORATORIUM REQUESTED BY U.S. SENATE**

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the resolution passed last week by the United States Senate in which they asked the President of the United States to announce a moratorium on any further developments of the ABM system before the re-opening of the SALT talks in Vienna, would the minister state whether he has approached the U.S. government and backed up the resolution of the U.S. Senate on this matter?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it would not be appropriate for the Canadian government to support the actions of a legislative body in that way. I can assure the hon. member, however, that we have been working as effectively as we can to bring about the success of the SALT talks and, of course, on part of those talks depends the question of whether we can stop the proliferation of these massive weapons of destruction.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**SPECIAL AREAS—SIGNING OF AGREEMENTS WITH PROVINCES**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Is he in a position to tell the House when agreements will be signed with the provinces on the new special areas program announced in the House last month?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the answer last time was very, very soon; now it is very, very, very soon.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McGrath: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The agreements were to have been signed by April 1. May I ask the minister—if he does not agree that this is a very serious matter, the provinces concerned do—if it is his intention to have these agreements signed before the estimates are reported back to the House so that the standing committee may have the opportunity to examine the agreements?