

Inquiries of the Ministry

me that responsible and important United States congressmen did understand our point of view. I would hope that members of their administration are no less intelligent and enlightened than the representatives to whom I have been talking.

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AGRICULTURE**FARM MACHINERY—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BARBER COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): My question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker. As it is several months since the publication of the final report of the Barber Commission on farm machinery, is the minister now prepared to make a statement on whatever plans the government may have with regard to the implementation of those recommendations?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): No, Mr. Speaker. I cannot give a specific date on which we would be making any further statement, but I have made a number of statements in the House respecting this matter in the past.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**PROTEST TO SOVIET UNION RESPECTING UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSION**

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Speaker. Is it the intention of the government to make a protest to the government of the Soviet Union concerning the massive underground nuclear explosion which apparently took place early this morning?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I have been making a number of statements recently relevant to this issue and I intend to reinforce them this week by calling for a complete ban by all countries on all kinds of testing, including the kind of underground test which has been carried out by the Soviet Union. I say this quite deliberately, because it would be a very great pity if the United States were to justify their underground test because the Soviet Union happened to have carried out this one.

Mr. Nesbitt: Perhaps the Secretary of State for External Affairs misunderstood my question. Is it the intention of the government to make a specific protest to the Soviet Union concerning this morning's explosion, or will it be done in the more general context of the minister's address to the General Assembly?

Mr. Sharp: No, it would not be my intention to make any formal protest to the Soviet Union any more than to the People's Republic of China or to France, all of which have been causing nuclear explosions. The reason we made special representations to the United States was the additional problem created by the fact that such a test as was

[Mr. Trudeau.]

proposed could have a direct effect on people living on the Pacific coast in both Canada and the United States. Indeed, such a nuclear explosion is to be condemned on two counts: First, it is a continuation of the testing and, second, because it happens to be in an area of difficult terrain where there might be untoward effects.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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INFORMATION**SUGGESTED LEGISLATION TO ENSURE PUBLIC ACCESS**

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I should like to ask the Minister of Justice a question. In light of the very strong recommendation in the report of the Economic Council of Canada that the government should proceed as quickly as possible to clarify the rights of the public to access to public information without bureaucratic or political strings, is the government planning to bring in a bill to this effect? If not, will the government give consideration to an order that the subject matter of Bill C-250 be referred to a committee? I have to ask these questions, Mr. Speaker, in light of the difficulty we have in getting information in and out of the House.

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OIL**POSSIBLE PIPELINE THROUGH CANADA TO TRANSPORT ALASKAN OIL—CONSULTATION BY U.S. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR WITH CANADIAN GOVERNMENT**

Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Was he or, to his knowledge, some other Canadian minister consulted by the United States Secretary of the Interior before Mr. Rogers Morton announced two days ago that he is now willing to consider a pipeline in Canada to carry Alaskan oil between Prudhoe Bay and the lower 48 states?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I will have to ask my colleagues whether they have received any representations along those lines. I personally have not.

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FISHERIES**PRESERVATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF RESOURCES—CANADIAN ACTION AT UNITED NATIONS AND AT HOME**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the serious decline in the quantities of many of our deep-sea species of fish because of overfishing by foreign nationals in our waters, is it the intention of the minister to take any action at the United Nations which would lead to the early establishment of a deepsea international control commission designed to preserve our fisheries resources on Canada's continental shelf?