

*Inquiries of the Ministry***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****VIET NAM WAR—INQUIRING AS TO REPRESENTATIONS BY PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON CONCERNING ACCELERATED U.S. BOMBING**

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I should like to ask a supplementary question of the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the war in Viet Nam. In his answer to the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway the Prime Minister informed us that the President had made his position clear, which I need not repeat. Did the Prime Minister raise any protest to the President of the United States about the accelerated bombing of North Viet Nam, particularly that which has gone so deeply into North Viet Nam at Hanoi and Haiphong? Was any opinion expressed by the Prime Minister on that and did he make any appeal to the President of the United States to end the bombings so that meaningful negotiations for peace can resume?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, I did not make any such comments to the President of the United States but I do know that his government and indeed other governments are aware of Canada's well stated position in this regard.

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POLLUTION**THREAT TO WEST COAST FROM PROPOSED TAPS TANKER ROUTE—SUGGESTED REFERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION**

Mr. D. W. Groos (Victoria): I have a question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. I understand from press reports and from what the Prime Minister has just said that the pollution problems that probably will exist on the west coast should the tanker route go through were discussed with the President of the United States and that the suggestion had been made that the matter be referred to the International Joint Commission. Were these press reports true and if they were would the Prime Minister give consideration to having the terms of reference of the International Joint Commission extended to cover this and also the general matter of marine traffic in this part of the country?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows, I am sure, that he cannot ask the Prime Minister to confirm or deny a press statement. Perhaps we might assume that the question has been asked directly and the Prime Minister might reply to the second part of it.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact we were going to sign on Saturday a treaty which showed the intention of both governments to come to grips with the problem of pollution, during the discussion of that I did raise the question of pollution on the west and indeed on east coasts and suggested that the matter be referred to the IJC, as the hon. member is requesting. I know that the Secretary of State for External Affairs also made that suggestion very forcefully. We have implanted it in the minds of the American government and we hope some progress will be made in this respect.

[Mr. Sharp.]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**DISPUTE WITH NABET—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS—COST TO TAXPAYERS**

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): I have a question for the Secretary of State, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that disputes in the public service seem to take a mobilized public to resolve them, I wonder if the minister intends to make a statement to the House on the continuing problem between NABET and the CBC so that we can know what progress is being made, if any, to resolve this longstanding labour dispute?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I cannot enter into an unconditional commitment as asked for by the hon. member because that could be very inopportune under the present circumstances. But if such a statement became necessary, I would do so on motions.

[English]

Mr. Nowlan: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I will have to check *Hansard* but I thought the minister also was going to undertake and/or review the possibility of stating to the House whether there is an extra cost to the CBC because of the strike or whether there has been a saving to the taxpayer, and that he would make a statement so that we could clear up the confusion. As the second part of my question may I ask whether I can assume from the minister's answer that the government at this time plans to take no initiative to bring these two parties together to resolve their dispute collectively and is going to let the matter drag on?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: As to the latter question, Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. member probably knows that two mediators of the Department of Labour have been working in that field for at least two or three weeks, if I am not mistaken.

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[English]

FINANCE**INTEREST RATES AND CANADIAN DOLLAR LEVEL—SUGGESTED STATEMENT ON NATURE OF REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance this afternoon may I direct my question to the Minister of State attached to that department. In light of the statement made last Thursday by the Minister of Finance that interest rates and the level of the Canadian dollar were under constant review with the Bank of Canada, could the minister tell the House whether his senior colleague will be making a statement in the House shortly on the nature of this review and perhaps forecasting what action the government will take with regard to interest rates as well as the value of the international monetary unit?

Hon. P. M. Mahoney (Minister of State): I will bring the question to the attention of the minister, Mr. Speaker.