

House so that information with respect to what is being proposed to replace unemployment insurance for fishermen will be placed before us for consideration in order that we may intelligently understand what approach we should take with respect to the proposed new Unemployment Insurance Act?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): When I have a bill I will be glad to schedule it in the best way possible.

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FINANCE

STABILIZATION OF DOLLAR TO KEEP EXPORTS COMPETITIVE

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the rise of the Canadian dollar to near parity with and above the United States dollar, which with the inflationary factor of 3 per cent last year makes the price of our exports to our customers about 10 per cent higher than a year ago, has the government any plans to stabilize the dollar at a price that will allow our exports to remain competitive?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): If my hon. friend will look, he will find that inflation in our main exporting market, the United States, was almost double that in Canada. With respect to the Canadian dollar, it is continuing very strong.

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BROADCASTING

FAILURE OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BUSHNELL BROADCASTING AND MARCONI COMPANY—GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

Mr. Jean-R. Roy (Timmins): My question is directed to the Secretary of State or to his parliamentary secretary. Following the unfortunate difficulties between Bushnell Broadcasting and the Marconi Company, and because of the approaching deadline for negotiations, would the minister consult with the interested parties and determine if some government intervention might assist in resolving the impasse and thereby favour Canadian ownership as well as the public purse?

Mr. James Hugh Faulkner (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): If I am not mistaken, Bushnell's option has expired, so I am not sure what sort of intervention the hon. member is considering. However, I might meet him afterward and hear what suggestions he may have.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EAST PAKISTAN UNREST—EVACUATION OF CANADIAN NATIONALS

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): My question is for either the Acting Secretary of State for Exter-

Inquiries of the Ministry

nal Affairs or the Prime Minister. In light of the reports that various countries are making arrangements to evacuate their nationals from East Pakistan in view of the internal problems there, what steps, if any, has Canada taken in this regard?

[Translation]

Mr. André Ouellet (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the High Commissioner for Canada in Pakistan is presently in Dacca and, according to our latest information, there is no question yet that the Canadians who are now in the eastern part of Pakistan leave the area. At any rate, if the situation were ever to deteriorate to the point where they should leave, discussions are already under way with the British authorities so that their removal can be carried out as quickly as possible.

[English]

Mr. Muir: I thank the parliamentary secretary for his reply. Am I to take it that there are no Canadians in any danger at the moment in East Pakistan?

[Translation]

Mr. André Ouellet (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker; they would not yet be in danger.

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● (3:00 p.m.)

[English]

OIL

EFFECT ON EASTERN CANADA OF VENEZUELAN PRICE INCREASE—EXTENSION OF PIPELINE TO MONTREAL

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the increased taxes imposed on foreign oil companies operating in Venezuela, the heavy reliance of eastern Canada on that oil and the almost certain increase in oil prices in eastern Canada, is the government re-evaluating the national oil policy with a view to supplying eastern Canada with Canadian oil by a pipeline?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, these questions are under continuing review. The price structure on the eastern seaboard is not yet firm, in that the Libyan negotiations are still not completed. Certainly the Venezuelan determination will lead to higher cost, but there is no new policy because the facts are not yet clear and determined. When the price structure is made clear, a further comprehensive review will be made.

Mr. Orlikow: I would like to ask the minister whether his department or the government will make their own study of the economics of a new pipeline, rather than leaving it to the oil companies or to Trans-Canada Pipe Lines?