

before the provincial governments and by a process of consensus achieve this. I cannot be sure when President Nixon will have his policy ready, but I know we will be ready with our studies soon. After that, it will be a matter for the Canadian political process to decide what changes will be made in the energy policy we have had in this country since the Borden Commission.

PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY OIL PIPELINE—
REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. On Thursday, March 22, and again on April 2, on the subject of a Mackenzie Valley oil pipeline to move Alaska crude oil to market and representations to the United States on this matter, the minister spoke of "measures taken just over a year ago by myself and repeated on a number of occasions since then to the American administration." On February 14 the minister said, in answer to a question by the hon. member for Calgary North on the same subject:

Mr. Speaker, the "not so long ago" to which the hon. member refers was 11 months ago. The government has no intention of renewing its representations.

Will the minister say—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member respectfully that perhaps his preamble is a little too long. Perhaps he might come to the question. I gather he was just reaching the question in any event.

Mr. Bawden: Will the minister say which of his answers was correct?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): They both were, Mr. Speaker. We repeated to the American administration the statement I made, which was tabled in the House in the last session. The hon. member, as a new member, might want to look it up. They were—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hesitate to interrupt, but I think the supplementaries have developed to the point that we have entered on debate. Perhaps we might try another subject for a few moments.

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FINANCE

FORECAST BUDGETARY BALANCE FOR CURRENT
FISCAL YEAR

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact we now have for the first 11 months figures for expenditures and revenues showing that there is a surplus of over \$1 billion for the first 11 months, are the Minister of Finance and the department still staying with their prediction that we will have a budgetary balance for the current fiscal year?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I must once again remind the hon. gentleman, that to get

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the total cash position of the government, he will have to look at both the budgetary and non-budgetary figures. As hon. members are aware, there is usually a substantial increase in expenditures in the final month, and particularly in the 30-day period after the end of the fiscal year which is permitted for the final allocation. I would think that at that time the position would be known with a little more accuracy than it is now.

Mr. Baldwin: How is the unemployment insurance fund?

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

MISTREATMENT OF INDIANS AT GRAND RAPIDS,
MANITOBA—DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Solicitor General. Has his attention been drawn to complaints by Indians living in Grand Rapids, Manitoba, that they have been mistreated by RCMP officers and to the subsequent investigation of those complaints by the provincial ombudsman?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have been made aware of this incident and disciplinary measures have been taken against the RCMP officers in question.

Mr. Orlikow: Did the disciplinary action taken against these RCMP officers consist essentially of transferring those who were guilty of misdemeanors to other positions in the province of Manitoba?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I will get that information and supply it to the hon. member. I do not have it now.

Mr. Orlikow: While the minister is looking into this question, would he give consideration to whether, if that was the disciplinary action, he considers it to be sufficient in light of the very serious nature of the charges?

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FINANCE

REQUEST THAT MINISTER OBTAIN ASSURANCE FROM
CHARTERED BANKS OF NO INCREASE IN INTEREST
RATES

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. As the Royal Bank of Canada recently broke the interest rate ceiling set by the minister last June, and as increases in interest rates at this time will of course slow down the economy and make the provision of jobs more difficult, has the minister been in touch with the presidents of the Canadian chartered banks and has he received from those gentlemen an assurance that they have no intention of raising interest rates at this time?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have been in conversation with the Governor of the Bank of Canada who has the initial responsibility for