

American dollars from entry into their markets, and there seems to be a growing tendency for American dollars to find their way into Canada, thus raising the value of our dollar?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have no indication whatever, nor would I like the hon. member to get the impression, that we are proposing a system of exchange controls in Canada at the present time.

Mr. Saltsman: May I then direct this question to the Acting Prime Minister. What steps is the government taking to urge upon the Bank of Canada the lowering of short-term interest rates to ensure that the Canadian dollar will not rise too substantially?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Waterloo might agree with me, and I suspect that even the President of the Privy Council might also agree that this is the sort of information which normally ought to be given on motions. The hon. member for York South.

• (1120)

Mr. Saltsman: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I might rephrase that question?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Waterloo on a supplementary.

Mr. Saltsman: I shall make it somewhat easier, Mr. Speaker, and ask the Acting Prime Minister whether any discussion is going on between the government and the Bank of Canada for the purpose of establishing lower short-term interest rates in Canada?

An hon. Member: Don't say "I don't know."

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance is obviously in continuous consultation with the Governor of the Bank of Canada. I am sure it would be improper for me to disclose the nature of those discussions.

Mr. Aiken: Even if you knew!

Mr. Fairweather: Shades of Paul Martin.

Mr. Lewis: I think the President of the Privy Council ought to go to the other place.

An hon. Member: That is what he hopes to do.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): There is one Paul Martin there already.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South.

Inquiries of the Ministry

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ADMISSION OF EAST GERMANY INTO WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AS STEP TOWARD PARTICIPATION IN UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Acting Prime Minister and if he does not know the answer perhaps the Minister of the Environment does, so I direct it to either. It concerns the United Nations conference on the human environment to be held in Stockholm next October. It is my understanding that the cabinet has been discussing the question of representation of East Germany at that conference, which is one of the stumbling blocks at the present time. Has the cabinet reached a decision with regard to supporting the admission of East Germany into the World Health Organization as a step toward its participation in the environmental conference?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I personally have been concerned about the nature of the Canadian delegation and the nature of Canada's submission to the United Nations conference on the human environment in Stockholm in June. I would prefer, however, to leave the matter of the representation of East Germany to be answered by the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. Lewis: I shall direct that question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs on another day. May I ask the Minister of the Environment whether the submission that Canada will make to the conference will be made available to Members of Parliament and other interested groups in Canada before it is presented to the conference? Also, will the minister's department or the Department of External Affairs head the Canadian delegation?

Mr. Davis: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Several different kinds of submissions will be made available prior to the conference in June. The Department of the Environment will be heading the delegation along with External Affairs.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT—INCLUSION OF PROVINCIAL AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES ON CANADIAN DELEGATION

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of the Environment whether he has entered into discussions with the provinces and whether there will be provincial representation on Canada's delegation and also non-governmental representation on the delegation of organizations interested in the question of pollution?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Yes, Mr. Speaker, there will be full representation from the provincial governments and from other interested organizations.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka on a supplementary.