Inquiries of the Ministry EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INQUIRY RESPECTING INTEREST-FREE LOANS TO FAR EAST COUNTRIES

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance.

Concerning the Canadian delegation headed by Mr. Gérin-Lajoie, could the minister tell the House if the \$25 million subscribed to the Asian Bank plus the \$200,000 for a special assistance fund and the help given to India, Singapore, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Thailand and French-speaking Africa, which amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars, will be the last loans granted without interest?

Mr. Speaker: The Secretary of State for External Affairs seems to want to take the question as notice. For the moment, the Chair recognizes the hon. member for Edmonton West.

[English]

OIL

TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE—CONSULTATIONS WITH UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In light of the statement made yesterday by his colleague the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources following discussions by cabinet ministers with representatives of the United States oil industry on the subject of the Alaska pipeline, can the minister tell us whether the government is considering or has considered a formal approach to the United States government in order to get this question settled once and for all so that we can get some credibility with regard to the whole question?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I announced in the House some weeks ago, plans are being made for consultations with the United States government about the problems of the west coast pipeline. I assume that in that connection there will be quite adequate opportunity for discussion of all phases of the situation.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): I can if the minister tell us if these discussions are to take place within the next few weeks or is it several months or next spring?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I hope it will be very soon indeed. The officials concerned are establishing the place and the machinery for discussions right now.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question period has just about expired. Perhaps the Chair might be allowed to recognize the hon. member for St. John's West and then pursue further questions tomorrow.

[Mr. Pelletier.]

FINANCE

AGREEMENT WITH PROVINCES ON FULL EMPLOYMENT AND GROWTH TARGETS FOR 1971 BUDGETING—FURTHER EXPANSIONARY POLICIES

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): My question is for the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. Is it the government's intention to try to reach agreement with the provinces on full employment and growth targets for their 1971 budgeting?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we have periodic meetings with the provincial treasurers and ministers of finance to discuss the economic situation and the general outlook that governments should take toward the forthcoming year.

Mr. Carter: Can the Minister of Finance tell the House if the Bank of Canada has asked the government not to pursue any further expansionary policies for 1971, for instance, a tax cut and, if so, what is the position of the government on that question?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, the Bank of Canada does not usually tell the Minister of Finance what he should do with regard to fiscal policy and therefore such representations have not been made.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, perhaps I might be permitted to ask a question of the President of the Privy Council. Will he indicate what business the government proposes to put before Parliament in the next few days, and possibly for the next week?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we propose to call the government organization bill and following that probably the unemployment insurance bill first and then the Canada Labour (Standards) Code bill. After consultation, I might try to work in third reading of the textiles bill and the report stages of the weights and measures and the investment companies bills, but that would be done only after consultation with other House leaders.

TIME LIMIT ON SPEECHES ON BUSINESS OF SUPPLY MOTION

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, on a further point of order, I think there is agreement with regard to today's debate along these lines: that the first spokesman for each of the parties shall limit his speech