

[Translation]

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Could the minister explain how come high officials of his department say that there are no funds available since January 5?

Mr. Speaker: That question has already been asked many times—

[English]

If the minister can reply briefly, he will be allowed to do so.

Mr. O'Connell: Mr. Speaker, I will inquire into the question again in a more precise way and let the hon. member know the answer.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF OPPRESSED UKRAINIANS—EFFECTIVENESS OF CANADIAN ACTION

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and is in reference to a petition recently presented to the minister by the Ukrainian-Canadian Committee alleging widespread arrests of intellectuals in the Ukraine. Can the minister advise whether the government has made or intends making representations to the government of the Soviet Union, or is it considering seeking an investigation by any international body concerned about human rights and fundamental freedoms?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, not only have I received this petition but I received the representatives of the association myself. We had a very long conversation as to what would be the most effective way of attaining the objectives that are in the minds of the association. They have left this matter in my hands for me to consider how we can be most effective on behalf of those who are being oppressed.

Mr. Macquarrie: Am I to take it, then, that the government has not yet found an effective way of dealing with this difficulty?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, that is not so. The Canadian government has been more effective in reuniting families on behalf of Jewish people who have been oppressed throughout the world than any other government in the world, and I think the methods we follow are the most effective.

POSSIBLE REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED NATIONS ON BEHALF OF OPPRESSED UKRAINIANS

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Inasmuch as the representatives of the Ukrainian-Canadian Committee urged the government to make representations to the United Nations, has

Inquiries of the Ministry

the government undertaken such action? If not, does it intend to make representations to that international body?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that matter is under consideration. As I say, I think what is important is helping people, not giving ourselves the satisfaction of having made protests in particular ways but selecting the means that are likely to be the most effective. As I say, we are now beginning to see some of the results of the very persistent and quiet diplomatic means we have used, and I think we should continue them.

* * *

HEALTH

FAMILY PLANNING—POSSIBLE CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the estimate yesterday of the president of the Family Planning Federation of Canada that one child in every five or six results from an unwanted pregnancy and because of the strong opinion expressed at the Family Planning Conference that the major roadblocks in family planning are now at provincial and local levels, will the minister seek an early meeting with provincial ministers to launch a co-ordinated program of family planning at all levels?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member may be aware, there is a cost-sharing arrangement under the Canada Assistance Plan for family planning services and counseling. We have ongoing discussions with the provinces almost daily with respect to programs under CAP. Certainly, these include family planning.

* * *

TRADE

UNITED STATES DISC PROGRAM—EFFECT ON CHEMICAL INDUSTRY—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Inasmuch as the representations of the Canadian chemical industry further emphasize the danger to our domestic industries resulting from the enactment of the United States DISC program, can the minister now announce whether the government has a policy based on studies of the results of the DISC program or is it willing to implement some of the recommendations made by the Canadian chemical industry?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, that study, which was very thorough and took some time, has come to a number of conclusions, one of them being that it would be essential, if plants established in Canada are to be viable, for them to have greater access to international markets and to the United States market in particular. This is not a reality at