

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**VIET NAM—SUPPRESSION OF PUBLICATION OF SECTIONS OF PENTAGON PAPERS DEALING WITH CANADIAN DIPLOMATIC ACTIONS**

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Did Canada request that the United States take steps to prevent the publication of sections of the Pentagon papers dealing with Canadian diplomatic actions regarding U.S. escalation policies in Viet Nam?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker.

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URBAN AFFAIRS**STATEMENT BY MINISTER ON WHERE BULK OF POPULATION WILL LIVE**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs relating to a speech he made in Detroit on June 23. I read from page 5 where he indicated that the great bulk, 74 per cent, of Canada's population will live in 12 urban centres, "and the rest of the country will live in relative rustic isolation and poverty". Is this the principle or basis upon which he is likely to guide the new Department of Urban Affairs?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows that a question cannot be asked in this way.

Mr. Andras: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, that quotation was taken out of context. I was simply indicating the prognostications and forecasts according to the report "Urban Canada" tabled in the House some months ago.

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SOCIAL SECURITY**FAMILY INCOME SECURITY PLAN—DISCUSSION OF CHANGES WITH CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Will the minister indicate if he discussed the proposed changes in the family income security plan with the Canadian Council for Social Development and, if so, what was their reaction?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker. Not every suggested change that was in the proposals today was discussed with them, but certainly the over-all principle of selectivity and the manner in which we are going about revising family allowances was discussed with them, and I did get their views as to what changes they thought should be made.

[Mr. Chrétien.]

URBAN AFFAIRS**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEMS**

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the announcement by Premier Davis that Ontario will pay 50 per cent of the construction and equipment costs of public transit systems, is the federal government, in light of the central importance of public transit to the solution of urban problems, making advances—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that a question asked in those terms is much too complicated and much too long. The question should be asked briefly because we will soon be running short of time.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, I can bring it to a conclusion. Is the government considering making advances available to the provinces for such public transit projects?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I would agree with your comment. The question is much too complicated and much too long for me to give any kind of decisive answer today.

[Later:]

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question supplementary to the one asked by the hon. member for Greenwood. Will the Minister of State for Urban Affairs assure members of the House that the item of transportation, and more especially rapid transit, will be included on the agenda of the tri-level conference that he will be holding with provincial and municipal representatives?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, that is a possibility.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**ASSISTANCE TO FORMER RESIDENTS OF SPRINGHILL WORKING FOR PENNSYLVANIA COAL COMPANY AND FACING EXPULSION FROM UNITED STATES**

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is further to the answer he gave me yesterday in relation to the Springhill miners who are now employed in Pennsylvania. Is the minister in a position to say if the United States immigration service has agreed to allow the Canadian citizens who were formerly residents of Springhill to continue in their employment until such time as meetings on this matter are concluded? The original order was that they were supposed to leave the United States tomorrow.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): As I understand the situation, Mr. Speaker, in January 1 of 1971 when the temporary visas expired the U.S. Department of Labour granted permission for the