

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Hees: When the minister is making the statement in the House I have asked him to make for the information of all hon. members, will he also outline the steps he is willing to take to arrange for an immediate survey by his department of all traditional and potential markets throughout the world to make sure we are not missing out on important potential sales in other parts of the world as we are obviously missing out in Japan?

Mr. Pepin: There was a good example this morning of the sales the Canadian government has encouraged and is making. I believe that a growth factor of 13 per cent last year on exports is a good indication of the efforts that are being made.

This point raised by that Japanese businessman about the activities of Canadian businessmen in Japan is debatable. If you look at the increase in exports to Japan in the last year—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the minister but I suggest we are now embarking upon a debate between the minister and the hon. member. Perhaps we might return to the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings in a short while if he wishes to pursue the matter further. In the meantime, the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Hillsborough.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**PROVISION OF MILITARY TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT TO ASSIST IN MOVEMENT OF EAST PAKISTAN REFUGEES—INCREASE IN FINANCIAL AID**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Noting that the United States is sending four large military transports to assist in the movement of refugees from Pakistan, now in India, could the minister tell us whether any request for similar assistance has come to the government of Canada and whether the government is looking with favour upon the granting of such aid?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): I would have to confirm this, but at the moment I do not believe we have received a specific request for material assistance such as could be provided by Air Transport Command. As the hon. member will recall, the command was of some assistance in East Pakistan earlier this year, and of course we stand ready to provide as much assistance as we can should there be such a request made.

Mr. Macquarrie: I direct this question to the Prime Minister. Noting, also, that the United States is increasing substantially its financial aid in connection with these refugees, may I ask whether the government of Canada is giving consideration to granting more assistance to these suffering people?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The matter will be discussed when the Secretary of State for External Affairs comes back from his conference in Europe.

[Mr. Pepin.]

EAST PAKISTAN REFUGEES—PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): In view of increased reports of shortages of medical supplies needed to combat epidemics rampant among the East Pakistan refugees, I should like to ask the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs whether Canada has received a request from any country or international relief agency for emergency supplies? If not, has Canada offered such assistance to this unfortunate part of the Commonwealth?

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URBAN AFFAIRS**ONTARIO DECISION TO SUPPORT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION RATHER THAN EXPRESSWAYS—FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RAPID TRANSPORT FACILITIES**

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): I address my question to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for urban affairs. I should like to ask whether, in light of the historic decision of the government of Ontario to transfer its financial support to public transportation from the building of expressways, the government of Canada will review its policies in the field of urban transportation and undertake to give financial support for the building of rapid transport facilities in lieu of expressways and thus encourage a form of transportation more sensitive to the real needs of the people living in urban areas?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that the question is perhaps more than that. It seems to me it is a suggestion or proposal he is making to the government. However, the minister responsible for this part of the administration might like to reply.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): I think I have answered similar questions before. I shall simply say I will give every consideration to the hon. member's representation.

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RESEARCH**APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO FIND SUBSTITUTE FOR INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a related question to the President of the Treasury Board in his capacity as minister responsible for science matters. In light of the historic announcement from Queen's Park yesterday, can the minister say whether the federal government has considered appropriating sufficient funds for massive research into the possibility of getting rid of internal combustion engines on our highways before they get rid of us?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): There is already a considerable effort going into seeking satisfactory alternatives to the present gasoline-powered internal combustion engine, either by using other sources of energy than gasoline or by not using an internal combustion engine at all. This question is being dealt with by a number of departments but there will, of course, be a special interest shown by the new department of the environment.