

and adequate representation of the population of that part of our country?

**Mr. Sharp:** No, Mr. Speaker. I was saying that from what I had seen on television, it showed the Indians, both in the audience and those performing, were having a good time. I am not aware of the actual numbers who were invited in various capacities. I am sure the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will be here and will give adequate answers. If necessary, the government will have an inquiry made.

**Mr. Broadbent:** A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the Acting Prime Minister to have confirmed by investigation if the principal role of the native peoples was to provide entertainment for the white population? Even so, the entertainers were kept in a hall, sitting on the floor between two washrooms. Is this the general approach or attitude with which the guests were invited and the entertainers treated? If that is confirmed, will the Acting Prime Minister assure the House the government will take steps to remove the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories from his position?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, my acquaintance with the Commissioner when I made a visit to the north confirmed that he was treating all citizens and all of the native peoples in a non-discriminatory way. However, if it were discovered that he had been acting in some different manner, appropriate steps would be taken. I cannot accept the statements that have been made by the hon. member without investigation. I was not there. The minister will be here and he will give a reply.

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[Translation]

### INDUSTRY

#### TEXTILES—THE ALLEGED TRANSFER OF PLANTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Is he aware that the Robin Brothers Clothiers Co. Ltd., and Utex Corporation textile companies at Victoriaville are in the process of moving their plant equipment and setting up new plants in Rumania and Colombia, thus endangering employment at Victoriaville even in the textile industry? Is his department aware of that extremely dramatic situation, and is it doing anything to prevent the loss of stable jobs in the textile industry at Victoriaville?

[English]

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that particular situation. I will look into it immediately.

[Translation]

#### POSSIBILITY OF PROCESSING ASBESTOS IN QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

### Oral Questions

I should like to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce whether his department had made any studies on the possibilities of processing asbestos in the province of Quebec and, if so, can he tell the House about those studies?

[English]

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I will have to make inquiries on that subject as well.

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### FINANCE

#### EFFECT OF INTERVENTION OF BANK OF CANADA TO PROTECT EXCHANGE RATE OF CANADIAN DOLLAR—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO REDUCE INTEREST RATES

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Minister of Finance. It is clear government policy that, as the Prime Minister stated on April 19, and I quote:

—the dollar respond to market forces and that any intervention... would be only to assure that the float does not have any dirt in it.

It is also clear that the Bank of Canada's recent interventions in support of the Canadian dollar include the selling of securities, which has had the effect of driving up our interest rate levels. Can the minister advise whether such a rise in domestic interest rates is viewed by the government as an acceptable market force at the present time in relation to stabilizing our Canadian dollar exchange level with the American dollar?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, as the Acting Prime Minister pointed out yesterday in response to a question, rising interest rates are not regarded with favour, as a favourable symptom or a favourable response to our general actions. However, it does reflect the competition for available capital in an expanding active economy.

**Mr. Stevens:** As the minister has confirmed that the interest rate levels are rising, will he now advise if the government has any plans to relieve high interest rate charges against borrowers in Canada, particularly those who have mortgage funds they are now carrying or seek to carry? Are there any plans to ensure that the trade deficit method of financing or high interest rates in Canada will not be carried on the backs of Canadian borrowers?

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure whose interest the hon. member is advocating, whether it is the borrowers who must be protected or the lenders. As I say, in this instance the rise in interest rates reflects a greater demand for capital—hence, greater economic activity—than there is capital available. There are ways of providing additional capital: it can be imported, or the money supply can be increased with consequent adverse inflationary effects. Or money could be provided, as has been frequently suggested by the opposition, through some form of government subsidy. We believe at the moment that it is not unreasonable to hope for a suitable accommodation by balancing all these forces. This is a question to which the Minister of Finance is presently addressing