

*Oral Questions*

government is committed to the principle of urban areas sharing in such taxes?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the position is that we are sharing a very substantial portion of income taxes with the provinces and they are free, under the constitution, to make what arrangements they wish with their municipalities. The province of Ontario, for example, which takes the lowest percentage of any province in Canada of the personal income tax, could by bringing that percentage up to the national average of the other provinces raise by that one simple step \$300 million for its municipalities.

\* \* \*

● (1520)

[Translation]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## PROVISION OF RIDING SECRETARIATS FOR MEMBERS

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Last spring, the parties negotiated for a supplementary credit in order to set up secretaryships in each constituency. Can the Prime Minister tell us whether his government is still in favour of such a measure and how the negotiations with the political parties are going?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. The government has kept its promise as the hon. member will see in the next supplementary budget estimates which will be submitted very shortly.

\* \* \*

[English]

## FINANCE

ALLEGED OVERCHARGING BY BANKS ON FISHERIES  
IMPROVEMENT LOANS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. As I brought to the minister's attention about a month ago the fact that banks were overcharging fishermen with respect to fisheries improvement loans and as the answer of his own department confirmed that the banks are overcharging fishermen on such loans, can the minister indicate what action he will take against the banks for deluding fishermen who are trying to get ahead in the fishery?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to examine that premise again and communicate directly with the hon. gentleman.

**Mr. Marshall:** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Would the minister investigate the facts which show that banks are charging fishermen a greater rate of interest than guaranteed by the government purposely, thus deluding fishermen who are trying to get ahead?

[Mr. Broadbent.]

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to look into the matter in so far as it comes within my department's jurisdiction.

\* \* \*

## NATIONAL CAPITAL

SUGGESTED FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR CITY OF OTTAWA  
PLANNING

**Mr. Hugh Poulin (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the zoning freeze that was imposed or voted upon by the city of Ottawa in the early hours yesterday, as this area forms the real heart of the national capital and as the freeze is for a period of 12 months, I would ask the minister if, in the interests of the national capital area, in the interests of all those persons who wish to have a better place in which to live and in the interests of the orderly development of the community, he will consider providing direct financial support to the city of Ottawa so that it can retain adequate additional planners—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, quite some time ago there were negotiations between the National Capital Commission and the city of Ottawa along those lines, which came to no result. I think the idea put forward is an exceedingly good one. I have asked the chairman of the National Capital Commission to meet the mayor of Ottawa and see whether some joint planning process can be established.

\* \* \*

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENT TO ASCERTAIN POLICY OF  
ARAB OIL PRODUCING STATES TOWARD CANADA

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and arises out of the information given by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources about our present position vis-à-vis oil shipments from the Middle East. Can the Secretary of State for External Affairs indicate what country diverted a vessel destined for Canada and what he is doing, through diplomatic channels, as indicated by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, to determine what the policy of the Arab oil producing countries is toward Canada?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources gave me this information just a very short time before the House assembled at two o'clock. He informed me that it was a shipment which had been held up by Saudi Arabia. We are not sure yet what the significance of this action may have been. I have given instructions to my department to ask the ambassadors from all the Arab states who are accredited and resident in Ottawa to call on me. I have also given instructions that the same questions