

with that shocking vandalism was made to the Minister of Veterans Affairs by the Canadian Jewish Congress.

I would ask the deputy leader to inquire as to what action the Department of Veterans Affairs is taking to repair those graves and what action the government is taking in terms of official representation to the Government of France concerning this very shocking incident.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): I shall be glad to pass that question on to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Do I understand that there would be a dimension in the question for the Minister of External Affairs as well?

Senator Marshall: I think representation should be made to the Government of France through the Minister of External Affairs in terms of what investigation they are carrying out in connection with this shocking incident.

Senator Frith: We will start with the Minister of Veterans Affairs, then, and attempt to get the information you are seeking.

ENERGY

TANKER TRANSPORTATION OF CRUDE OIL ON WEST COAST

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, on Thursday, April 24, Senator Nurgitz asked whether the government was able to secure a commitment from U.S. Secretary of State Vance, during his visit to Ottawa, that the United States would not allow oil to be shipped via tanker down the west coast.

I am advised that both the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs raised this matter with Secretary Vance and that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has begun negotiations on this matter with his counterpart in the United States.

As the senator is aware, the Americans chose the Northern Tier project, despite the stated preference of the Canadian government for an all-land route and its clear and repeated objections to an overseas route which would result in increased traffic along Canada's west coast. The matter has been reopened and is being discussed by the minister responsible with officials in the United States.

Honourable senators, I also have a reply to a question asked by Senator Roblin, but I shall wait until he is in the chamber before giving it.

● (2050)

THE NETHERLANDS

STATUS OF GOVERNOR GENERAL AT ACCESSION TO THE THRONE OF H.R.H. PRINCESS BEATRIX

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, when the Leader of the Opposition asked about some questions on the order paper that had not been answered, I mentioned that I hoped to have some answers for him soon. I did not know then that it would be this soon.

Senator Perrault's assistant has prepared some answers for me. In fact, I have answers to five questions and I am prepared to read them all into the record, but if the reply is lengthy I shall say what it deals with, and if the senator who posed the question wishes to have it taken as read perhaps he would say so.

The first is in reply to a question asked by Senator Austin on April 16, 1980. The honourable senator asked what the official status of the Governor General would be in relation to Her Majesty the Queen at the Accession to the Throne of H.R.H. Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands in Amsterdam on April 30. Senator Austin is not here so I take it that honourable senators would like me to read the full answer, which is as follows:

Her Majesty the Queen will not be attending the accession, but will be represented by the Prince of Wales. The Governor General's status at the accession will be, to use the terminology the Dutch government is using to describe all national representatives at the accession, Head of the Special Mission of Canada. As has been done in the past, the Dutch are according the Governor General full head of state honour.

As it is difficult for Her Majesty to represent Canada at events which take place abroad, she has supported the idea of the Governor General, as her representative in Canada, undertaking official travels to other countries. The practice was established when former Governor General Roland Michener, visited the Commonwealth Caribbean countries and, in 1971, the Benelux countries.

Senator Flynn: And also Iran.

Senator Frith: Mr. Léger visited Spain in 1978. Before these visits were undertaken Her Majesty was, of course, consulted.

HOUSING

INCREASE IN FUNDING UNDER THE RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, my next reply is to the question put by Senator Marshall on April 17, 1980, on the increase in funding under the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program. This reply is rather long, Senator Marshall. I shall be glad to read it, or perhaps we can take it as read and you can study it and then perhaps ask supplementary questions if you wish to do so.

The answer is as follows:

Honourable senators, further to the question raised by Senator Marshall regarding an increase in funding under the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program, I can now enlarge on my earlier response.

The federal government has been placing increasing importance on providing assistance for the repair and maintenance of the existing housing stock through the RRAP program. Support is available for both homeowner and rental units.