

Oral Questions

● (1430)

VETERANS AFFAIRS

DISPOSITION OF UNUSED PORTION OF GEORGE DERBY
HOSPITAL SITE, BURNABY—PARTICIPATION BY
MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVES IN NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the fact the minister is now in the process of disposing of over 200 acres of prime property formerly owned by the municipality of Burnaby, and in view of the fact this property was acquired for a nominal amount because of the world war II emergency, would the minister at least invite representatives of the municipality to participate in those negotiations with a view to returning this land to the municipality?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have met people from the municipality in question and discussed what the hon. member is suggesting. Negotiations have been in progress now for possibly two years and are still being carried on. No decision has as yet been arrived at.

Mr. Leggatt: As the Department of National Defence returned the Jericho defence property in Vancouver for a nominal sum, would the minister now consult with others in the cabinet, particularly with the Minister of National Defence, with a view to developing some kind of consistent government policy in returning these world war II emergency properties to the municipalities?

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, in answer to that question, there is no comparison between the George Derby institution which looks after veterans and the munitions dump to which the hon. member has referred. There is no comparison.

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[Translation]

ENERGY

PROPOSED SUPERTANKER PORT ON ST. LAWRENCE AND
IMPORT OF OIL FROM SAUDI ARABIA—DISCUSSION WITH
QUEBEC

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Prime Minister?

Can he tell us whether he has approached the Quebec government with a view to dissuading it from reaching an agreement with Saudi Arabia on the construction of an oil supertanker port, and the purchase of the oil required for consumption in Quebec?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF CANADIAN EMBASSIES
IN ALL ARAB OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Prime Minister.

[Mr. Andras.]

Can he tell the House whether he intends to open Canadian embassies in all Arab oil producing countries in the near future since Arab countries without oil already have them?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

POSSIBILITY OF NEW POLICIES TO RECTIFY
DISLOCATIONS INVOLVING INTEREST AND MORTGAGE
RATES AND RENT INCREASES

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, as we seem to be getting some results from the Prime Minister, I will try this question on him. Is the government at least considering the introduction of policies designed to rectify the many economic dislocations in this country involving escalating interest rates, mortgage rates beyond the reach of many Canadians and rent increases that are at the origin of many domestic concerns, all caused by permitting a high rate of sustained inflation and encouraging a high level of unemployment?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to consider every measure that will permit us to improve the economic situation.

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AIR TRANSPORT

PROPOSED PASSENGER HEAD TAX—REQUEST FOR DELAY
IN IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Transport. Having regard to the inflationary impact and the administrative difficulties which the proposed airport head tax will create, may I ask the minister if he is giving any consideration to the request by the Air Transport Association of Canada for a delay in the implementation of the proposal in order to provide sufficient time for the consideration of viable alternatives inasmuch as the proposal as outlined by the minister is administratively unworkable under present conditions?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think this request is not reasonable. This subject was discussed at length in 1969. The problem was, at what time should this new tax be implemented. We think it is about time, if we do not want the general public to support the burden of the new tax, to put it on right now.

Mr. Mazankowski: Has the minister received a telegram from the Air Transport Association of Canada outlining their objections to this new proposal and, if so, can he indicate the nature of his reply?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I have received this wire. I saw it about an hour ago. The reply has not been sent, but it will be sent today.