

INDUSTRY

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT ON FOREIGN OWNERSHIP

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): I address my question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. Bearing in mind the statement made by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources yesterday and statements made by the Prime Minister on a number of occasions with regard to the expectation of tabling a report on foreign ownership, can the right hon. gentleman now say when he expects this report to be tabled?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The last time I was asked this question I said I had no means of predicting when it would be ready. It will be some time yet. I cannot add to that statement.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ALLEGED FLYING OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY PLANES BY SOVIET PILOTS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he has any information as to Soviet pilots alleged to be flying Egyptian military planes in the Middle East. If so, has the government made any representations with regard thereto to the government of the U.S.S.R. in connection with the dangers of a clash between Soviet-flown planes and Israeli planes?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): We have been trying to get as much information as possible from our missions in the Middle East. I expect to have the pleasure of welcoming the Foreign Minister of Israel to Canada next week and I shall probably be discussing this matter with him.

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL AREAS IN CHAMPLAIN RIDING

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Will the region of La Tuque or other regions in the riding of Champlain soon be classified as special regions?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I do not think so, Mr. Speaker.

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TRANSFER OF NERVE GAS FROM OKINAWA TO UNITED STATES

Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich): On January 29 and subsequently, Mr. Speaker, I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he had received any reply from the Canadian ambassador in Washington concerning the proposed shipment of nerve gas by the United States through the Strait of Juan de Fuca. I understand the hon. gentleman has now received certain information and I wonder whether I might repeat my question at this time.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): It is my understanding that at two o'clock today the United States government will issue a statement concerning the safety precautions it intends to take in connection with this shipment. It is our understanding, however, that the final decision to proceed has not yet been taken pending litigation in the United States courts. I therefore continue to hope that it will be possible for a decision to be taken either to avoid making this shipment or to find some other route.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I ask the Secretary of State whether he has received a favourable reply from the government of the United States regarding his representations that another route be found for the shipping of this nerve gas?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, as I said, the United States government has not taken a decision as to when it will permit the shipments to take place, pending the litigation that is under way and which has been instigated by some governors of states through which the nerve gas will pass. Therefore I cannot answer the question.

However, I gather that the United States government itself is satisfied that the safety precautions are adequate, and will be giving us permission, I understand, to reveal those precautions. We also have a committee at work with the British Columbia government so we can take whatever precautions may be necessary if the United States does decide, notwithstanding our representations, to proceed with the shipments.

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Is this not one aspect of internation-