Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Hees: If you conned them into believing what you were trying to tell them.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, contrary to the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings, I think these people are of high intelligence, and we agree.

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URBAN AFFAIRS

TORONTO—DEVELOPMENT OF CNR-CPR METRO CENTRE COMPLEX—EFFORT OF ONTARIO DECISION TO STOP CONSTRUCTION OF SPADINA EXPRESSWAY

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): My question is for the Minister of Transport. Will the decision of the Ontario government to stop construction on the Spadina Expressway hamper or prevent the development of the CNR-CPR complex known as the \$200 million Metro Centre in Toronto?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I am afraid that is much too technical a question for me to answer immediately. I will be glad to look into it. I might add that the decision which was made by myself, along with Mr. Campbell of Metro Toronto and the provincial government, with regard to the commuter railway study apparently becomes considerably more important now, and we will speed up that study in light of what has happened.

Mr. Ryan: Will the minister try to let us have an answer to my question shortly?

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

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USE OF SPECIAL ACCOUNTS TO CARRY OVER UNUSED FUNDS TO BE SPENT IN FUTURE YEARS

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): I wish to direct my question to the President of the Treasury Board. In light of the Auditor General's concern that special accounts for funds to be held over for spending in future years severely weaken Parliament's surveillance over public expenditures, is the government going to stop using and creating such special accounts?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): I would expect, and indeed I hope, that this particular issue would be thoroughly discussed in the Public Accounts Committee.

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THE CENSUS

COMPLETION OF LONG QUESTIONNAIRE BY PERSONS IN OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and

[Mr. Sulatycky.]

Commerce. Are the census authorities still insisting that persons in old people's homes and occupants of other institutions of that sort complete the long census forms and send them in, or is the short form being accepted in lieu thereof in those situations?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I do not know how the census could be valid unless the proper procedure is followed. The sample method can only produce good results if it is properly implemented. It would make it impossible for proper statistics to be compiled if people were to exchange long and short census forms or if people refused to answer the long questionnaire but agreed to answer the short one. I do not think the system would work if this were done.

REPORTED REFUSAL OF WINNIPEG ENUMERATORS TO SEND IN FORMS BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE PAY

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the eleven o'clock CBC broadcast this morning on which we were told that Winnipeg census enumerators have refused to turn in the census forms because they feel that the pay they are receiving is inadequate, what steps does the minister propose to take?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industries, Trade and Commerce): I was in the House at eleven o'clock so I could not listen to the news program. I will have the information checked. If it happens to be true, I will express the greatest resentment because these people were quite well acquainted, before accepting the work, with the salary which they would receive. Their action would be most unwelcome in view of the importance of the documents that they are now holding in their hands, if this news item is true.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSAL BY SOVIET UNION TO BAN ARMS ON THE MOON

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister. Having in mind the proposal made today by the U.S.S.R. through the United Nations calling for a world agreement to ban world arms from the moon, can the Prime Minister say whether the government will give consideration to supporting this proposal at the United Nations?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as the House knows, Canada has been extremely active in the establishment of agreements barring armaments from outer space and from the seabed. I am sure that through our representative in New York, Ambassador Beaulne, and our representative in Geneva, Ambassador Ignatieff, Canada will again participate actively in reaching agreement on such a subject if indeed it has been brought forward.

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, is the Prime Minister not aware that the question is a hypothetical one because the moon is full this week?