

*Inquiries of the Ministry*INVITATION TO COMPANY TO PLACE
OBSERVER IN VESSEL "MANHATTAN"

Mr. Paul St-Pierre (Coast Chilcotin): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister also inform the house whether an invitation was issued to the Panarctic Oil consortium to put an observer on the ship *Manhattan* when she attempts to force the ice of the northwest passage this summer? If the invitation was issued, was it accepted and if not why not?

Hon. Paul Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to take this question as notice.

SEA TRIALS IN TRANSPORTATION

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Was the Government of Canada consulted in connection with the sea trials of oil transportation in the northwest passage to be undertaken by the United States this summer?

HOUSING

POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS FOLLOWING TASK
FORCE REPORT

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that the minister has indicated that he is not going to make a statement on motions regarding housing, I want to inquire if he is asking the government for any priority in introducing his amendments to the National Housing Act and if he can give the house some idea when that legislation is likely to come before us.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend is aware, when the business for the balance of the session was announced the other day by the house leader amendments to the National Housing Act were included. I hope they can be brought forward at an early date.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister with respect to recommendations 11, 12, 19 and 25 of the task force which have to do with the private sector of the economy and the representations which are to be made regarding the reduction of insurance fees, legal charges and estate commissions, whether any representations have been made to the responsible bodies having to do with these matters and what responses the minister has received.

Mr. Hellyer: I am not sure I can answer that question without notice, Mr. Speaker. I
[Mr. Hellyer.]

think I recall correspondence with one or two interested parties in which, if I remember correctly, it was suggested they might use their good offices to see what could be done to reduce costs in these areas. I would hope that in the weeks and months ahead additional representations can be made to all interested parties, including labour unions presently engaged in wage negotiations with the building industry, to use moderation so as to keep down as far as possible the cost of housing to all Canadians.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Will these representations be accompanied by some investigation into the sharp rise in the cost of building materials which has occurred in recent months?

Mr. Hellyer: I do not want to indicate exactly what action may be taken in this field but as the hon. gentleman is aware we did point out that this is an area which should be investigated. It has been referred to the appropriate people for investigation and I would hope that if there is any evidence to warrant action being taken, action will follow.

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Is it the intention of the government to assist the Ontario government with regard to the implementation of rent controls in view of the experience the federal government has had in this field?

Mr. Hellyer: I am not a constitutional expert, but I believe that other than in wartime this is a matter which lies exclusively within provincial jurisdiction.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): I have a question for the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker.

Since he indicated here that he would arrange meetings in order to bring down the interest rate for the beginning of the building season, would he tell us whether there have been any results yet?

[*English*]

Mr. Hellyer: I am not sure which meetings the hon. member is referring to but we have, of course, made representations to the various lending institutions with respect to the supply of more money during the current year and the initial reaction to that inquiry has been most favourable and most encouraging.

With respect to the cost of money, I would not wish to comment on that question at the