

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Did the minister have recent discussions with the Quebec authorities in connection with the proposed national park in Témiscamingue and if so, is he in a position to tell us where they stand?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I did get in touch with the Hon. Guy St-Pierre Friday last in that connection. We discussed it in general terms, but we hope to meet soon to discuss it more specifically.

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[English]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****VIET NAM WAR—CANADIAN INITIATIVES TO OBTAIN CEASEFIRE**

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the worsening situation in Viet Nam with both escalation of the bombing and the potential fall of South Viet Nam, can the minister indicate whether or not Canada has taken any initiatives with the Soviet Union, China or the United States in the hope of obtaining a ceasefire?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** No, Mr. Speaker. I did answer a similar question last week and the answer is no.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, I think the minister will admit that the situation grows appreciably worse. In view of the offer made earlier by the Secretary General of the United Nations to make his good offices available, may I ask whether or not we have had any communication with the Secretary General with a view to the Secretary General taking some responsibility in this area?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I did support the initiative of the Secretary General. He has not been in direct communication with us, but I felt it desirable to support him in his offer of good offices. As the hon. gentleman knows, however, neither of the Viet Nams is a member of the United Nations so he would have to intervene in his personal capacity. However, I hope that he is successful.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** In view of the crisis having a very serious effect on the great powers and, in particular, on the level of stability in Southeast Asia, would the minister be prepared to make a statement shortly on the government's own attitude with respect to the situation and any potential initiatives or initiatives that the government has already taken?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I do not think much purpose would be served by my making a statement on the very serious situation in Viet Nam at the present time. I might reiterate, however, the offer of Canada to act as an observer or in any capacity in which we could be useful. I doubt very much, if the Secretary General of the United Nations is unable to act as an intermediary, whether the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada would be successful.

[Mr. Caouette.]

**FINANCE****HOLDINGS OF UNITED STATES DOLLARS—RELATION TO CANADIAN DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE**

**Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In light of the fact government holdings of United States dollars have now reached \$4.227 billion, can he say what exchange rate for the Canadian dollar this massive intervention is aimed at?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the Canadian dollar is continuing to float.

**Mr. Ryan:** As the Bank of Canada's monetary policy has been designed to avoid any undue appreciation of the Canadian dollar, according to the Economic Review, can the minister inform the House what the government means by "undue" and whether the present appreciation is acceptable or undue?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have serious doubts about this kind of question.

**Mr. Ryan:** It is a very good question.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question may be of interest and important, but I think it is so broad it should normally be answered by way of a statement on motions or perhaps during consideration of the budget.

**DELAY IN B.C. MUNICIPAL PROJECTS BECAUSE OF CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY DISPUTE—REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF FORGIVENESS PERIOD UNDER FEDERAL FINANCING**

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to ask the Minister of Finance who, from what I can see, is his usual cheerful and generous self, particularly today. In the lower mainland of British Columbia a construction industry dispute has stymied a number of federally aided municipal projects, resulting in the danger of municipalities suffering losses because of their inability to get the projects in operation and thereby benefit from the forgiveness clause in federal financing. Will the minister look into the matter to see whether it is possible to extend the period within which municipalities can qualify for this aid?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** I will certainly look into that, Mr. Speaker.

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**INFORMATION CANADA****IMPLICATION OF LACK OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE QUEEN FOR DISTRIBUTION**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour and has to do with the announcement by Information Canada of an expansion program costing several millions of dollars for the provision of computerized information and the like. Recently I have found that people who have written to Information Canada asking for a picture of the