

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—CHANGES IN POLICY

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance.

Would he tell us if he intends to change the policy designed to fight inflation without further increasing recession in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Compton will admit, I think, that he is now asking the Minister of Finance to make a statement which would be more appropriate on motions.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED RECOGNITION OF
COMMUNIST CHINA

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether there is any foundation for the radio report to the effect that negotiations in respect of the recognition of Communist China have arrived at the point where it may be expected that within ten days recognition will be announced by the government, during a time when the House will not be in session?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before the right hon. Prime Minister replies to the question I might say that the right hon. gentleman realizes hon. members cannot ask the government to confirm or deny statements. We will assume that the question has been asked directly of the Prime Minister.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have not heard this rumour. This is news to me. Perhaps the hon. gentleman has some information from Russia that I do not have.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I have not been in touch with Dr. Lin so I have not the latest information. The Prime Minister must have that information. In regard to the question of recognition, is the Prime Minister refusing to answer the question whether or not the present long extended negotiations are about to achieve results?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I repeat that I have had no information to this effect by way of rumour or otherwise. The department will be answering questions on Monday. Perhaps the hon. gentleman might ask the minister then.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Questions will be answered on Monday? Does that mean we are going to sit in order to deal with the railway problem?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Are you going to railroad the air strike?

[Later:]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, as a result of a lapsus linguae—I think that is the proper term—I said “railway problem” when I meant air transport problem.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF
STANBURY-FIELDS REPORT

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, having in mind the generosity I know the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development wants to display at this time of the year, I am sure he is just waiting to answer the question I posed the other day regarding the Stanbury-Fields report. Is he now in a position to make that report available?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we have said that we could not publish the report. However, some months ago, in reply to a question asked by another hon. member, we supplied a good amount of information that I shall be pleased to pass on to the hon. member for Skeena.

[English]

EFFECT OF CONSULTATIONS RESPECTING
MINIMUM WAGES

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development whether his department is actively engaged in consultations with the Minister of National Health and Welfare regarding minimum wages for Indians, and whether this will change any plans the department now has for programming projects to encourage Indian initiative in certain areas?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we are keeping in touch with the other departments in order to formulate a policy that would allow the Indian people to