

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

INFORMATION CANADA**AVAILABILITY OF TAX INFORMATION IN ENGLISH
TO NEW CANADIANS**

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for Information Canada. In view of the complaints received by Information Canada that in some cases tax information for new Canadians has not been available in English, will the minister say whether this has been brought to the attention of the Department of National Revenue?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether that question ought to be addressed to the minister responsible for Information Canada. If we were to follow the lead given by the hon. member, perhaps all questions might be directed to the minister in his capacity as Information Canada. This Chamber would become "Information House of Commons". I would not think that is the minister's responsibility.

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OIL**PROPOSED TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM—ACTION
FOLLOWING MEETING OF UNITED STATES AND
CANADIAN OFFICIALS**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister in his capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs regarding the discussions which were held some two weeks ago between officials of his department and officials of the government of the United States concerning the danger of ecological damage arising out of the TAPS program. Have any decisions been taken as a result of this exchange of opinions, and what initiatives does the Canadian government now intend to take following these discussions?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, so far as I know no decisions have yet been made in the United States on whether they will proceed with the TAPS program. I will be visiting Washington on June 10 to meet with my counterpart, the Secretary of State, in order to discuss the general question of pollution and I will be following the matter up at that time.

Mr. Douglas: Although the minister has made several protests in the House and on Canadian television, has he made any formal representations to the United States government regarding Canadian concern about the proposed TAPS route? Would he also be prepared to table such a letter of protest, if one exists?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I reported in the House at some length on the representations made by the Canadian government to the United States government recently and I set out there exactly the position that we took with respect to the dangers of ecological damage arising out of the building of that line.

[Mr. Pelletier.]

[Translation]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Acting Prime Minister.

Considering the lack of balance of our economy, could the minister who has a great experience and knowledge of economic matters tell us if we are at the beginning of a new period of economic expansion or if we are faced with an outlook of unduly long economic decline?

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me the hon. member is inviting the minister to make a statement of a rather general nature. I suggest that such a statement should be made on motions.

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[English]

FINANCE**LEVEL OF CANADIAN DOLLAR—BUDGET ACTION TO
RESTORE COMPETITIVE POSITION OF
EXPORT INDUSTRIES**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the statement made by the Prime Minister last night on the television program "Weekend" that "the Canadian dollar is so strong indeed that it is hurting our export trade because people are finding it cheaper to import goods and more difficult to sell them abroad," is the government planning to take action in the forthcoming budget to restore the former competitive position of, in particular, our labour-intensive export industries?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, for an answer to that question I think my hon. friend will have to wait for the budget. The question of the value of the Canadian dollar is a very complicated one, as he well knows.

Mr. Hees: Can the minister now advise the House when the budget will be brought down? On what day?

An hon. Member: All is confusion. He doesn't know.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**TRIALS OF JEWISH CITIZENS BY SOVIET UNION—
DISCUSSION BY PRIME MINISTER WITH
RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the deep concern felt in this country over the nature of some of the trials of Jewish citizens that are still taking place in the Soviet Union, can the Secretary of State for External Affairs say whether the Prime Minister is to discuss this matter with the Soviet authorities while he is in Moscow?