Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

THE BUDGET

INTRODUCTION OF OUTSIDE EXPERTS IN PREPARATION

Mr. Bruce Howard (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of indications in the press that the minister is interested in formulating some arrangement to bring in outside experts to assist in the preparation of budgets, I should like to know whether such action is being given consideration in respect of the preparation of the current budget?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Not this budget, Mr. Speaker.

INDUSTRY

TASK FORCE REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, this question is for the President of the Treasury Board. Over two months ago I asked the minister whether he would make a statement to the house soon on the task force study of the government in respect of industrial research and development, at which time he said he would soon. I know that the government has no undue commitment to haste but I am wondering again whether the minister would be prepared to make a statement soon?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I am glad the hon. gentleman is not urging haste but rather thoroughness on the part of the government. It is a policy of thoroughness we are pursuing.

NATIONAL PARKS

BRITISH COLUMBIA MARINE PARK AGREEMENT

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. While the minister is still in the mood to make announcements about national parks, can he tell the house whether the government has signed the agreement with the government of British Columbia with regard to phase one in the establishment of the west coast marine park and, if not, when he expects the agreement will be signed?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Soon, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Chrétien.]

GASPÉ-TURN OVER OF LAND IN PERPETUITY

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, this question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the announcement concerning the agreement with regard to a national park in Gaspé, which we were pleased to hear, can he say whether agreement has been reached to turn over the necessary land to the government of Canada, without encumbrance, in perpetuity?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: The agreement was signed for 99 years, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I should like to ask the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development whether the acceptance by the federal government of a long term lease in connection with the park in Gaspé means that the federal government has adopted a new policy which in future will require only the granting of a long term lease from a province, rather than a deed in fee simple which has always been the requirement in the past?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, that agreement had previously been reached under a FRED agreement. In fact, the FRED agreement stipulated that a park would be developed under the conditions accepted today. This is the first national park to be set up in Quebec, and we trust there will be more of them under the terms of the National Parks Act.

[English]

Mr. Stanfield: I wonder whether the minister could answer my question?

[Translation]

Mr. Chretien: Mr. Speaker, the policy with regard to our national parks is flexible. The agreement reached with the Quebec government is in every way consistent with the spirit of the National Parks Act.

[English]

SECOND NATIONAL PARK IN MANITOBA

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate to the house when