

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

that time any recommendations for the future of that institute?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, this matter has been looked into by the Indians themselves and they are the ones who have to make recommendations to us. I must admit that I have not yet received any.

\* \* \*

[English]

**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****FOREIGN INVESTMENT—SPECIAL TALKS AND JOINT RESEARCH WITH PROVINCES**

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister as soon as I can get his attention. It has been reported that the government has further agreed to consult the provinces on foreign investment. I should like to ask whether the government is prepared to hold special talks and undertake joint research with the provinces on this very important matter?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** If they so desire, Mr. Speaker, we can have joint talks and research, but our intention now would be to consult them one by one. It would be a more harmonious conversation, I believe, if we heard their opinions singly rather than together.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RESPECTING BENEFIT PARITY**

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour.

Could he tell the House if other talks have been held with the U.S. government regarding unemployment benefits? Since American benefits are lower than Canadian ones could the minister tell us if negotiations have been entered into in order to establish benefit parity?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, such talks are being held today and will continue next week.

\* \* \*

[English]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****REPORTED ATMOSPHERIC NUCLEAR EXPLOSION BY PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—CANADIAN PROTEST**

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister. Can he indicate whether the government was advised by the government of the People's Republic of China regarding that country's recent atmospheric nuclear explosion, and can he advise

what channels the government will be using to protest against this further proliferation of pollution?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we are trying to verify whether this explosion actually took place.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** We have heard that such a likelihood is possible. If it is confirmed that there has been a nuclear explosion we will express our protest to the government of China through the usual channels, our embassy in Peking, as we did express to them our opposition after the House of Commons adopted the resolution condemning nuclear tests. The position of the Canadian government is that we are against all nuclear testing of all kinds everywhere.

**Mr. Macquarrie:** For clarification, Mr. Speaker, is the Prime Minister advising that our government has no information that an explosion took place yesterday?

**An hon. Member:** No leak there yet.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, my information is that we are trying to confirm the accuracy of the report. This should be a relatively simple matter.

**Mr. Bell:** Then he is going to protest.

\* \* \*

**OIL****PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—AFFIRMATION OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT—ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES**

**Mr. R. J. Orange (Northwest Territories):** I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Would the minister please advise whether statements are correct which are attributed in the press to Secretary Morton of the United States to the effect that the Canadian alternative oil pipeline route is not being considered because it does not appear to have the support of the Canadian government?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am sure the hon. member knows that a question cannot be asked in those terms. Would the hon. member resume his seat. The hon. member is asking the government to confirm a report in the newspapers. I do not think that a question asked in those terms is in order. The hon. member could rephrase the question.

**Mr. Orange:** Can the minister say whether the suggested alternative oil pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley still has the support of the Canadian government?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to advise and confirm to the House the continuing interest and willingness of the government of Canada to examine and discuss any proposals relating to the transport of Alaskan petroleum resources through Canada to market in the United States. Together with the Minister of