

DISARMAMENT

SALT II TREATY—INQUIRY RESPECTING DELAY IN RATIFICATION

Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and it stems from the fact that this is the beginning of disarmament week in Canada. My question has to do with the strategic arms limitation treaty, commonly known as SALT II, which was signed by President Carter in June of last year but has not yet been ratified by the U.S. Congress. I should like to ask the minister whether he has made recommendations to his counterpart in the U.S. in order to register Canada's concern about the delay on the part of the U.S. Congress to ratify this document and, if not, does the minister intend to raise this matter with the new administration before the end of this year?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I have discussed this matter from time to time with U.S. officials but I have not made any recent representations, nor has the government, to the U.S. government in this respect for two reasons. First of all, our position in support of SALT II is already well known; second, the support of the U.S. administration for SALT II is already well known and they are pledged to implement it as soon as they believe conditions warrant. However, I expect that I will probably be discussing the matter with the new U.S. administration, of whatever party, when that administration takes office.

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GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

MEMO RESPECTING ENERGY POLICY

Mr. Otto Jelinek (Halton): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Multiculturalism. The minister heard my motion earlier in the question period regarding a document marked "for the minister's eyes only" from his communications co-ordinator, Mr. Mack Erb, regarding changes in the government's energy policies based solely on polls and partisan politics. I should like to ask the minister, first, whether he received such a memo; second, has he read it; and third, what recommendations, if any, has he made to cabinet in this regard?

Hon. Jim Fleming (Minister of State, Multiculturalism): Madam Speaker, I am not aware of that memo. I would appreciate it if he would like to send me a copy of it. I am not sure of the context because I did not hear the whole of his motion under Standing Order 43.

Mr. Jelinek: Madam Speaker, I would be glad to pass the memo to him which was marked for his eyes only.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jelinek: To jog his memory, Madam Speaker, I should like to quote another part of this very political document which

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was clearly prepared as a result of further costly government polls and questionnaires. It reads:

If the export tax could be dropped from the energy package by forgetting the western package for one year, it would be damn good politics.

I want to ask the minister how far he will allow partisan politics and advertising to proceed in an effort to distort and politicize the nation's energy policy, a policy which requires a truthful and honest approach. In other words, when will he stop exercising this partisan rip-off on the unsuspecting taxpayer?

Mr. Fleming: Madam Speaker, I honestly do not believe I have seen such a memo, so I would appreciate—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Fleming: Hon. members laugh; that is fine. I do not know but perhaps there are inventors on that side of the House. Perhaps in paper which has crossed my desk such a memo has come forward, but I do not recall it. I do not recall seeing it. I am trying to speak the truth in answer to the question. I reject any charge which says that the government has used any moneys to unfairly advertise any policy.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Fleming: I have done my best to ensure that that does not take place. I must say that I do not recall any material coming to my attention that has attempted to do that.

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● (1440)

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

PROPOSED TARGET FOR 1980-81

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board. As we are now six months and more into the current fiscal year 1980-81, would the President of the Treasury Board indicate whether our total outlay expenditure level is right on target? Can he assure the House that expenditures this year will not exceed \$58.4 billion, which is approximately a 10 per cent growth over last year?

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, I suggest the hon. member for York-Peel await the statement of the Minister of Finance on the fiscal framework.

Mr. Stevens: Madam Speaker, the President of the Treasury Board has indicated once again who actually controls expenditures in this government, namely, nobody other than the Minister of Finance.

My supplementary question concerns the number of active employees now subject to the Public Service Staff Relations Act. As that number has climbed to over 300,000—300,015 as of August according to his own figures—compared with 292,-