

Oral Questions

must also be understood that this is a very difficult road—the roads are not paved—and that sometimes accidents could have been caused by wrong manoeuvres by absent-minded drivers.

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[English]

TRANSPORT

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF TRANSPORT COMMISSION ON RAILWAY ACCIDENTS AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have directed this question on another occasion to the Minister of Transport, but in view of the fact that as of yesterday afternoon there were a number of freight cars spread across the real estate in my home town I wonder whether the minister can now tell us when we may expect the report he has promised for some time regarding derailments in Canada and safety precautions to be taken in this regard?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am awaiting this report from the Canadian Transport Commission. As soon as I get it I will communicate it to the hon. member.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ARAB—ISRAELI WAR—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON DUTIES AND SAFETY OF CANADIAN MEMBERS OF UNITED NATIONS TRUCE OBSERVERS FORCE

Mr. Donald Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Would he assure the House and the country of the safety of Canadian truce observers performing their duties under United Nations orders in the area of the Middle East, and will he indicate their names, the duties they were called upon to perform at the time of the outbreak of hostilities, the areas of their operations and their present whereabouts?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not carry that kind of information in my head. I can assure the hon. member that all my reports indicate that Canadians serving in that area are alive and well. I would be very happy to supply the hon. member with the names, duties and other information in order to satisfy his curiosity.

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FINANCE

CANADA SAVINGS BONDS ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN—SUGGESTED REVIEW BY CONSUMER AFFAIRS MINISTER

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Peel South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I wonder if the minister has reviewed the advertising campaign conducted by the government of Canada in an effort to sell the current issue of Canada savings bonds?

[Mr. Chretien.]

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I have not as yet, Mr. Speaker, but I will be happy to look into the matter.

Mr. Blenkarn: When the minister reviews that campaign, will he do so with the intention of indicating to the Canadian public that the 8 per cent interest rate barely represents enough to break even—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1550)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ARAB ISRAELI WAR—POSITION OF CANADIAN MEMBERS OF UNITED NATIONS TRUCE SUPERVISORY COMMISSION

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is related to a previous question directed to the Acting Prime Minister. I wonder whether we are interpreting him correctly in understanding the Acting Prime Minister to have said that in fact no members of the Canadian Armed Forces serving with the United Nations Truce Supervisory Commission in the Middle East are in fact in the protective custody, if you will, of one of the warring nations and are free and as nearly as able fulfilling their duties?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, what I said in my answer is that they are alive and well. I am not absolutely sure just where they all are at the moment because some of them have been asked to move out of areas of warfare for their own safety. I will have to inquire concerning just exactly where they are and who is helping to protect them at the moment.

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ENERGY

OIL EXPORT TAX—SHARING WITH ALBERTA—SUGGESTION THAT MINISTER OF FINANCE TAKE OVER NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance a question. Has the government now reached an agreement with the government of the province of Alberta in respect of what portion of the surtax will be returned to the province of Alberta at this time?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, that question is still under negotiation.

Mr. Woolliams: Then may I ask the Minister of Finance this question. In light of the fact the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has caused a lot of difficulty between the two levels of government because of his inflammatory statements, would the Minister of Finance be prepared to take over negotiations in respect of the