

the technicalities, etc., of that proposal are not ironed out as yet.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, might I ask the minister whether he will at least give the House the assurance that Canfarm will be kept alive until the time when it can be turned over to the private sector, something which is strongly supported by the employees, the farmers concerned, and certainly by me?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I am condemned on the one hand for not keeping it alive with government funds; and when I said it should be privatized, I was condemned for that. I am glad to see that the member has come around to agreeing to both sides. I just want to say that I can say no more at this time, other than to suggest that our concern seems to be the same, that Canfarm should stay alive and we will do everything we can to make sure that happens.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAYMOND CHUNG, VANCOUVER, B.C.—REUNIFICATION WITH FAMILY

Mrs. Simma Holt (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and relates to Raymond Chung, of Vancouver, the beloved founder and master of T'ai Chi in Canada, who has for 16 years sought to be reunited in Canada with his wife and two children in mainland China.

Since the Peking government has been telling the free world it will act to honour our goals toward the free movement of people and family reunification, will the minister press China to prove its integrity and sincerity by reuniting Raymond Chung with his family?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have made a number of representations to the government of China on this particular case, as well as, of course, on the whole issue of family reunification. I regret to say that in this particular instance I have not had as much success as with many other family reunification matters, but I can assure the hon. lady that I will take it up again with the appropriate authorities.

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● (1452)

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

EVALUATION OF PACIFIC PETROLEUMS SHARES PURCHASED BY PETRO-CANADA

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Why did Petro-Canada buy into Phillips Petroleum when it was at the end of a long rise in share prices of the past four

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years and only a year ago averaged \$31? On what grounds did Petro-Canada evaluate the purchase, which seems to be some \$20 higher than it was on the trading day? Is this to be another Texas Gulf type of transaction, when the CDC bought at the height of the market and the stock has not done very well since?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, Petro-Canada paid a premium over the then market price, as the hon. member has noted. That is not extraordinary; indeed, every oil company takeover this year has involved a significant premium over market.

As to the actual price and what might be an appropriate price, this, of course, is a professional judgment. A professional judgment was taken by the board of directors and those who advised the board of directors of Petro-Canada.

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PUBLIC WORKS

GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN THEATRE IN NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Science and Technology: it deals with reports that between \$500,000 and \$1.5 million have been invested in the theatre at the National Press building.

Could the minister tell the House what the intention is for future use of that theatre, having regard to the fact that the Prime Minister seems determined to move his press conference out of that particular locale?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, I will have to investigate the figures suggested by the hon. member. They sound rather on the high side, and I am not sure whether he is talking about the original construction or the modifications to the building. It is my understanding, however, that the theatre will continue to be used in the future.

MOVING OF PRESS CONFERENCES FROM THEATRE IN NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister? He will recall that the Secretary of State made a long speech at UNESCO with respect to what we regard as freedom of the press in this country. In view of the statements made by the Secretary of State on this important topic, will the Prime Minister reconsider his plan to move press conferences to his own locale to allow him to stand in front of the television cameras, rather than being seated, as he is apparently concerned about this?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that is an urgent question of national importance and I am anxious to answer the hon. member. It is precisely in keeping