

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Stanfield: Has the government directed its attention in any particular way to the control of Trans-Canada Pipe Lines and the extent to which this company might be affected?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, Trans-Canada Pipe Lines is, to the best of my knowledge, something like 90 per cent or more Canadian owned, and from what I have seen to date I do not think that these purported transactions would affect the continuation of Trans-Canada Pipe Lines as a Canadian owned and Canadian controlled company.

* * *

POST OFFICE

INQUIRY AS TO INCREASE IN FIRST CLASS MAIL RATE

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Post Office. In view of the fact that the United States has increased its rate for first class mail to eight cents, is it the intention of the Canada Post Office to increase its first class mail rate?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, it may not be because the United States is increasing its rate, but right now we are studying this question.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UGANDA—INQUIRY AS TO GRANTING OF DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO NEW REGIME

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can he inform the House what the policy of Canada is with regard to the recognition of the new government of Uganda?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Like most other countries of the world, Mr. Speaker, we are still watching events closely. We have not yet decided what action we shall take.

* * *

INDIAN AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENTS TO ACT

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Since this seems to be the day when we are trying to get rid of things, can the minister give the House some indication when he will put forward some proposals in respect of the Indian Act, so we may be able to get rid of something that commits many Canadians to be wards of the government?

[Mr. Greene.]

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, a year and a half ago I suggested that the Indian Act be amended. However, hon. members know that the Indians are not ready to cross that bridge and that we will be unable to legislate in this field until we obtain the consent of the majority of Indians.

* * *

[English]

FINANCE

CAPITAL WORKS FUNDS OFFERED TO MUNICIPALITIES IN BUDGET—RESTRICTION ON USE FOR SOIL EROSION AND POLLUTION CONTROL PROJECTS

Mr. Robert P. Kaplan (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Has the minister asserted that the capital works funds offered to municipalities in the last budget may not be used for soil erosion and pollution control projects at the Toronto lakeshore? I ask this question in view of a letter written to—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should not ask a question in those terms. He cannot ask whether the minister has made a statement. However, I am sure hon. members will agree that the question is important and if we can assume that it has been asked correctly the minister might like to reply.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

[Translation]

POLLUTION

REPORT ON INQUIRY INTO MERCURY CONTAMINATION OF RIVERS FLOWING INTO JAMES BAY

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry.

Could he advise us whether the inquiry on the source of mercury pollution in James Bay is finished? Has he received information in this respect and will the report be made public?

[English]

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): We are looking into this matter and will report shortly.

* * *

ENERGY

INCREASE IN NATURAL GAS SUPPLIES—ADDITIONAL PIPELINES TO EASTERN CANADIAN MARKET

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources whether he is aware of recent reports from