

Inquiries of the Ministry

any discussion whether, in the event that took place, oil would be transported from there to the California area by pipeline rather than by tanker route from the Puget Sound area to California? I ask this question in light of some of the studies that have been made public by the Department of the Interior of the United States about the ecological dangers.

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I do not think that that specific topic was a subject matter in our discussions.

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[Translation]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**MEASURES TO PROTECT PUBLIC AGAINST
HIGH-PRESSURE CREDIT**

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, I wish to direct my question to the Prime Minister.

Considering that individual indebtedness is on the increase and that, according to the most recent figures of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, it totals \$11.5 billion, and considering also that insidious and dishonest means are used to bring people to buy on credit, does the Prime Minister or the government intend to take concrete steps, considering the size of the amounts involved, to give greater protection to Canadians who are high-pressured in this way?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I am taking note of the question which I shall forward to the minister concerned.

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[English]

TRANSPORT**BORDEN-TORMENTINE FERRY SERVICE—RESTORATION OF
ICEBREAKING AND RAILWAY TRAFFIC CAPACITY**

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): I should like to direct a question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport in the absence of the minister. What action is the government taking to restore the icebreaking and rail carrying capacity of the Borden-Tormentine ferry service?

Mr. Gérard Duquet (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): I should like to take notice of this question and bring back an answer early next week.

Mr. MacLean: I should also like to know what reply the Minister of Transport has given to the suggestion of the Prince Edward Island government that the *John Hamilton Gray*, which was built to replace the original ferry, the *Prince Edward Island*, should be retained on the Borden-Tormentine service and the other older ferry, the *Abegweit*, lent to the Newfoundland service. Perhaps the minister could also table the letter which

[Mr. Barnett.]

he sent to the government of that province and which I understand was tabled in the legislature there.

Mr. Duquet: I will refer this question to the minister, but I think I can say that the negotiations with regard to the ferry service are proceeding very well and there should be very good news within the next two days.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS**SUGGESTED AMENDMENT OF RULES AFFECTING
OPERATION OF COMMITTEES**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): My question is directed to the President of the Privy Council. I shall wait until the conversation between him and the Prime Minister is over. I did not want to intrude on that conversation.

Having regard to the decision rendered today by His Honour the Speaker, with which I am not in disagreement I wish to ask the House leader whether, under the circumstances disclosed by the hon. member for Crowfoot, he does not agree that unless changes are made in the rules respecting committees a squalid caricature of Parliament will be the result and the disrepute of Parliament will be in further evidence across the country? Would he be willing to discuss with the party house leaders the convening of the rules committee in order to meet such situations as disclosed by the hon. member for Crowfoot, which can only have the effect, if it remains unchanged, of making members of the opposition serfs of the government?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I will make a deal with the right hon. gentleman. If he will attempt to change the attitude of the hon. member for Crowfoot I will attempt to change the Standing Orders.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member for Crowfoot is absent, that statement was scarcely what I would have expected from a good parliamentarian.

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question. May I say that I do not think the comment by the government House leader should be applied to any member of that committee. Will immediate consideration be given by the government House leader and other house leaders to doing something about the situation that has developed in the committee whereby the majority makes the decisions as they go along, which I think is not parliamentary—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Peters: —and not advantageous to the work of the committee.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!