

60 per cent of capacity, thereby causing a great deal of unemployment?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the fact that the Canadian dollar is stronger has an effect on export sales.

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### POLLUTION

#### PRESENT AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS ON WEST COAST— INVITATION TO CANADA TO CO-OPERATE WITH UNITED STATES IN STUDY

**Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich):** In light of the commitment made on Monday by the United States Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Morton, to examine present and potential shipping problems on the west coast of the continent, may I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether the Canadian government has as yet been invited to co-operate in this study?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** The United States government has not invited us to consult with them but I have invited the United States Secretary of State to consult with us.

#### THREAT POSED BY TANKER TRANSPORT OF OIL FROM VALDEZ, ALASKA, TO CHERRY POINT, WASHINGTON— DIRECT REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, there have been repeated appeals by Canadians and Americans protesting the shipping of Alaskan oil from Valdez to Cherry Point. Why has the Canadian government not made any direct representations to the government of the United States regarding the pollution hazard that would be entailed by such shipments?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the reason is that there are hearings being held by the American authorities and I do not think it would be proper for the Canadian government to appear before a United States tribunal of this kind. On the other hand, I think it is most important that during the period while the hearings are being held Canadians and Americans should realize the potential risks involved and speak out and speak out clearly.

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### YUKON MINERALS ACT

#### REPRESENTATIONS THAT BILL BE WITHDRAWN AND QUARTZ MINING ACT BE RETAINED

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** I have a question for the Prime Minister based on the several letters, telegrams and briefs that have been forwarded to him from the Yukon and western Canada in connection with Bill C-187 now standing on the order paper, respecting the Yukon Minerals Act. Is the Prime Minister going to accede to the request of the Chamber of Mines which has written to

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him, a copy of which I received in my mail today, that Bill C-187 be withdrawn from Parliament and that the Yukon Quartz Mining Act remain as the mining code for the Yukon?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the bill is on the order paper. The government has no intention of withdrawing it. Of course, during the debate on the bill we will be glad to give consideration to and discuss any arguments put forward.

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### INFORMATION CANADA

#### REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PERSONNEL INCREASE IN DEPARTMENTAL AGENCIES

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey):** I wish to direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio who reports for Information Canada. Will he reply to the question I asked yesterday in his absence with regard to whether he would consider making an early statement on the situation with respect to the substantial increases in the staffs and expenses of the information sections of various government departments since the establishment of the coordinating agency, Information Canada?

**Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio):** I thank the hon. member for again raising the question. I apologize for having to leave the chamber a few minutes before the question period expired yesterday. I think there will be an early opportunity to go into this whole matter when the estimates are before committees. In the meantime, I might explain that Information Canada does not have authority over the budgets of other departments. We hope to have a beneficial influence on them but, as indicated at the beginning of Information Canada's existence, it would probably take about a year after it was in full operation before these effects could be felt, particularly in view of the fact that the estimates of departments have to be formulated far in advance of the time at which the hiring is done.

**Mr. Mather:** Is the minister aware that the government task force on information which preceded the establishment of Information Canada criticized the size and expenses of some of these departmental information sections?

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### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

#### ACQUISITION OF BANFF OIL LIMITED BY AQUITAINE

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** With Your Honour's permission I will now direct the question to the Prime Minister which I put as a supplementary with regard to foreign investment. Is the Prime Minister aware either through his office or any of the ministers' offices whether there has been communication with regard to Banff Oil Limited, a Canadian company, which