

by his hon. friend in his own party. Perhaps he might consult him too.

Mr. McKinnon: Has the government recommended that a site other than Cherry Point should be considered, such as Neah Bay or Grays Harbour?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of alternatives that might be considered.

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INCOME TAX

REPORT OF CORPORATE TAX MEASURES REVIEW COMMITTEE—REQUEST FOR STUDY BY STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to those asked the Minister of Finance by the hon. member for York South. Would the Minister of Finance direct that the report on the success of the corporate tax measures be studied by the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs so that the evidence he intends to file in terms of the companies that reported can be studied by the committee in order to find out whether the report has in fact made a proper assessment?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the standing committee is always free, of course, to call the public servants who put together that report. I will be appearing on my estimates before the standing committee in short order. The hon. gentleman, who is a member of that committee, will be free to put whatever questions he would like to ask.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member for a further supplementary, but hon. members will appreciate that with all these supplementaries we are still on the first or second question. Perhaps we should try to move on a little more quickly. For the moment I will recognize the hon. member for Mississauga.

Mr. Blenkarn: Mr. Speaker, the minister is undoubtedly familiar with the fact that the standing committees of the House cannot just enter into anything they want without a direction from the minister concerned. Would the minister allow the committee the opportunity independently to study the report so it can find out whether the statements made therein are correct and the tax changes are in fact benefiting the economy and are not just political buffoonery between him and the leader of the New Democratic Party?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Oral Questions

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NOTE TO UNITED STATES CONTAINING PROPOSALS RESPECTING OPERATION OF ALASKA-CHERRY POINT OIL TANKERS—PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of his statement a moment ago that in the note which was sent to the State Department of the United States there is a proposal for an offshore terminal at Cherry Point with an underwater pipeline to the refineries, may I ask the minister whether consultations were held with the government of British Columbia before these various options were submitted to the government of the United States?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we did have consultations with the government of British Columbia, which did not wish to associate itself with our note.

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FINANCE

INQUIRY AS TO DATE OF PRESENTATION OF BUDGET

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. On March 27 the minister told the Leader of the Official Opposition that as soon as the energy question had been settled he would be presenting a budget to the House. Can the minister tell the House today, in light of the problems the country is facing and the need for a review of economic conditions, when we may expect the budget to come forward?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I said at that time that a budget was not feasible until we analyzed the division of benefits and burdens across the country in fiscal and monetary terms. I also said to the House earlier, in response to an interjection by the hon. member for Crowfoot, that the budget would not be brought in before Easter. I will make an announcement some time after the House reassembles.

Mr. Gillies: May we reasonably expect that the budget will be brought down before the end of April?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman may have his own expectations but I will be making an announcement in due course.

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GRAIN

WHEAT AND BARLEY—INQUIRY AS TO INTERIM PAYMENT TO FARMERS

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice who is in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. All over the prairies today farmers are finding themselves in a position where they do not have sufficient money, except by borrowing at 10 to 12 per cent, to provide for needs in