

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

will further slow down the economy and therefore create further unemployment, does the minister still intend to go ahead with his proposals to control consumer credit?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I indicated our intentions in my budget speech.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Did the minister have an estimate made of the probable increase in unemployment that would result from these consumer credit regulations? Was such an estimate made and, if so, what was the estimate?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, we had estimates of the over-all probable levels of unemployment which are forecast. The consumer credit controls, as I indicated, would not affect, we estimate, more than one per cent of credit sales and to that extent would not have, in our opinion, a serious effect on the unemployment situation.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, would the minister not agree, when unemployment has reached the figures it has now, that any further increase is serious? Is the minister telling the House that he has not really had an estimate made as to the effects on unemployment of this proposal or, if he has had such an estimate made, that he is not prepared to give it to the House? Is this what he is saying?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that I do not think the consumer credit item per se will have a serious effect on unemployment.

**POLLUTION****SECOND VOYAGE OF "MANHATTAN"—POSSIBLE DISCHARGE OF OIL—USE OF U.S. ICEBREAKERS**

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. He is not on the roster to be present today and is not here, but neither is the acting minister nor the second acting minister so perhaps I had better direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister and he can distribute it where appropriate. What contingency plans have been made by the government to deal with any discharge of oil by the *Manhattan* during her second voyage through the Canadian Arctic?

[Mr. Stanfield.]

**Mr. Woolliams:** They sent the Prime Minister up there.

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport has made many statements in the House on this subject and the related aspects of the trip. It is my understanding that he had advised the House he would have further information on the precise question asked by the hon. member.

**Mr. Nesbitt:** Mr. Speaker, I naturally cannot get into a controversy with the Acting Prime Minister at this time, but I asked the question in the first place because the Minister of Transport has given information on other matters but not on that point. However, I would like to put a supplementary, if I may. If for any reason Canadian icebreakers do not accompany the *Manhattan*, will the government permit the tanker to proceed through the Canadian Arctic with the assistance of the United States icebreakers?

**Mr. McIlraith:** Mr. Speaker, I would be very glad to have an answer to the question brought forward.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In light of the statement made by the Prime Minister in a radio interview this morning that he was not aware of the extent of Canadian Arctic waters, would the Acting Prime Minister call this to his attention and say that the House is very anxious to know what the Canadian government claims as being Canadian Arctic waters?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon member for Surrey.

**FINANCE****SUGGESTED REMOVAL OF SALES TAX ON MARGARINE**

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question which I want to ask the Minister of Finance. A few weeks ago in answer to a question the minister indicated he was giving consideration to the many requests of consumer groups and from the industry for the removal of the 12 per cent federal sales tax on margarine. Has a decision been made on that point and, if not, when can it be expected?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, at the time of the budget a decision was made to make no tax changes.