

Oral Questions

wishing to leave Indo China or South Viet Nam can apply to come to Canada under the refugee provisions of the immigration regulations and would be dealt with on an individual basis and judged accordingly. With regard to the second part of the question, the most recent information I have had from the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is that there has not been a formal declaration of a refugee status for people leaving either Cambodia or South Viet Nam, but we are in almost weekly contact with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and indeed one of my officials will be in New York tomorrow talking with him on that subject.

POSSIBLE USE OF ARMED FORCES AIRCRAFT TO TRANSPORT
VIETNAMESE CITIZENS TO CANADA

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. If Canadian armed forces aircraft are used to evacuate Canadians from South Vietnam will these aircraft also be used to transport South Vietnamese citizens if these citizens would be capable of receiving UN status as international refugees?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, we have already used Canadian forces planes to evacuate Canadian personnel from Saigon as far as Hong Kong. We would respond to requests from other departments to make use of these aircraft for other purposes.

* * *

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—SUGGESTION PRIME MINISTER USE PRESTIGE OF
HIS OFFICE TO OBTAIN ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENSUS
PROGRAM

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister who looks lonely over there. I should like to ask him, now that his consensus program has reached a crucial stage, whether the government has reached a decision that the Prime Minister should use the prestige of his office and persuasive power to try to persuade the principals in the economy to adopt the Prime Minister's consensus program. If so, is the meeting of the labour leaders on May 7 to be postponed, so that the Prime Minister can attempt, on his return to intervene there?

● (1420)

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should explain that the Prime Minister has had to leave the House to participate in some of the activities in connection with the visit of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales.

An hon. Member: All the royalists have left.

Mr. Sharp: As to the question itself, the Prime Minister and other members of the government have been participating in the development of the policy consensus. I do not think it will be necessary for him to abandon his plans

[Mr. Andras.]

to intervene in this way, but I can assure the House that he is fully in support of the activities of all the ministers in the field.

INFLATION—PERSON IN CHARGE OF CONSENSUS PROGRAM IN
ABSENCE OF PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I was not asking that the Prime Minister abandon his plans but rather whether the government has any plans in this connection. With the Prime Minister going away and the Minister of Finance out of the country, perhaps the Acting Prime Minister could indicate to the House who will be in charge of the consensus program at this crucial stage, will it be the Acting Minister of Finance or the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance? I got the impression yesterday that the Acting Minister of Finance is pretty busy trying to figure out a way to get dredging done in the country.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I would just like to assure the Leader of the Opposition that the process of the development of the government's consensus program is continuing, and we see no reason to think that it will be delayed by the absence of the Prime Minister or of the Minister of Finance at the present time.

Mr. Stanfield: I would like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether it is his hope and the hope of his colleagues that business and labour in this country will take the consensus program more seriously than they themselves seem to.

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

OLYMPIC GAMES

POSSIBLE CONTINGENCY PLANS TO SUPPLEMENT LOSS FROM
SALE OF COINS

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. Because of the fact that the Olympic revenue may be short by some \$75 million or more as a direct result of the Olympic coin program, thus further adding to the already incredible deficit of Montreal, COJO and Quebec, can the Postmaster General advise the House of the contingency plans, which I know the government has, to supplement the loss in revenue to the Olympics?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The figure quoted in the newspaper today of \$100 million revenue from the coin program is precisely the figure that was given before the Quebec legislature some months ago. So, we are short \$75 million only in anticipation that we would have sold coins worth \$175 million. In so far as the second question is concerned, I am hopeful that the government will be advancing acceptable legislation in the not too distant future.