

United States, and if the Government is prepared to use it as an effective vehicle to protect our workers and exports.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, of course I am aware of the law of Canada. I am also aware of the fact that the way to secure growth and jobs for this country is not to strike out at our friends, and not simply to seek refuge in protectionist measures. Our future lies in stronger trade and stronger job creation. That is the way of the future. Members of the NDP continue to lie wallowing in the past. We are quite prepared to leave them there.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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EXTERNAL AID

OUTSTANDING DEBT OF POOREST COUNTRIES

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Given the tremendous debt burden of the developing countries, particularly the poorest ones in Africa, and in light of the Government's recent decision to extend all further aid as grants rather than loans, is the Government considering action to forgive the outstanding aid debt to Canada of these poorer countries?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the House will know that the Government is preoccupied with the human tragedy in Africa and developing countries elsewhere. We are now seriously considering means of easing or eliminating the burden of past aid loans, particularly on those countries which have shown the courage and the determination to try to bring about fundamental reforms in their own economic systems.

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PETRO-CANADA

PRICE PAID FOR REAL ESTATE

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. A Peterborough company involved in the business of importing sunglasses purchased a property in my riding and resold it two days later to Petro-Canada, thus making a \$70,000 profit. Can the Minister explain to the House how Petro-Canada got rooked to the tune of \$70,000 in this real estate deal?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have advised the House on many occasions that I do not get involved in the day-to-day operations of Petro-Canada. I suggest that the Hon. Member address this issue to Petro-Canada.

Oral Questions

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister who is responsible to the House in answering for the Crown corporation called Petro-Canada. Will the Minister table in the House all appraisals and all documents relating to this unusual real estate deal—yes or no?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, since the Hon. Member is apparently not willing to pass his question on to Petro-Canada, perhaps, Sir, I will.

Mr. Boudria: In other words, no.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

PROJECT TO ESTABLISH SHOOTING RANGE NEAR BAGOTVILLE, QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence who must certainly be aware of the fact that the majority of Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean residents are opposed to his Department's project to establish a shooting range for F-18 fighter aircraft near Bagotville. Keeping in mind the fact that polls reveal that two out of three residents are strongly opposed to this shooting range, not to mention 14 municipalities and seven school boards, when will the Minister shelve that project?

● (1450)

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, officials of the Department of National Defence are working with officials of the Government of the Province of Quebec, and are discussing these matters with the affected Members of Parliament as well as the affected communities. I have confidence that they will work out an amiable solution.

[Translation]

POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF BAGOTVILLE MILITARY BASE— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Will the Minister unequivocally dissociate himself from the threatening statement of his colleague the Secretary of State to the effect that, if local residents reject the proposed firing range, the Minister of National Defence might close the Bagotville military base?