

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

are now entering the field of debate and perhaps we might go to another subject. Since the minister has risen on a point of order, I will recognize him.

**Mr. Benson:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I simply wish to point out to my hon. friend, as I did earlier today, that we do not give instructions to the chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission.

**Mr. Hees:** Nonsense; we do not buy that.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****MIDDLE EAST—USE OF CANADA ARMED FORCES IN PEACEKEEPING ROLE**

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can he enlighten his colleagues and the House about his proposal regarding Canadian participation in a peacekeeping force in the Middle East?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, when I was in eastern Europe I was asked whether, if there were a peace plan or a ceasefire that involved peacekeeping forces, Canada would be willing to participate. I said yes, in principle.

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** I wonder if the minister—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Is the hon. member rising on a supplementary?

**Mr. Forrestall:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister be kind enough to indicate who was involved in these discussions when this feeler was put forth, in response to which the minister replied in a positive manner?

**Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca):** I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the minister state whether he put this proposal as a Canadian proposal to the United Nations, and whether the United Nations has agreed with the idea of a peacekeeping force returning to the Middle East?

**Mr. Sharp:** As the hon. member knows, resolution No. 242 of the Security Council provides the framework within which a settlement of this conflict might be reached. Unfortunately, very little progress has been made. In so far as the question of a peacekeeping force is concerned, while it is important that the world should know that, in prin-

[Mr. Speaker.]

ciple, we would be prepared to participate, I am afraid that it may be some time before we are called upon to fulfil that role.

**PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION****LISTS OF NAMES USED IN SENDING OUT PAMPHLETS**

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Will the minister consult with the Chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission to find out just how the lists were devised by the commission for sending out these pamphlets that have been issued? I have received four pamphlets. I also have in my hand a pamphlet that was sent to a person who has been dead for four years. This is a scandalous waste of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** I am sure that if the hon. member received four he needed four. However, I will refer the question to my colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

**LABOUR RELATIONS****WEST COAST TOWBOAT STRIKE—PRESENT POSITION OF NEGOTIATIONS**

**Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** I wish to address a question to the Minister of Labour in connection with the towboat tie-up on the west coast of Canada. I direct the minister's attention to a reply he made, as recorded at page 7544 of *Hansard*. The minister indicated he might be making a statement to the House before the end of last week. Can the minister either give a direct indication of the situation at the moment or indicate when he may be making the statement to which he referred in his answer a week ago today?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** I apologize for not having made the statement, Mr. Speaker. Events have been moving rather quickly on the coast. Any statement I might make in the House could jeopardize the proposed settlement. I can indicate, however, that the representative of the Department of Labour is meeting today with the unions to offer them the package proposal advanced by the employers over the weekend. I have no way of knowing whether that package is acceptable. I hope to know later today.

**Mr. Barnett:** I intended to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Justice but apparently he has been called out of the chamber. Perhaps the Solicitor General might respond to my question. I have received