

Inquiries of the Ministry

received any representations. I shall have to inquire whether any such representations were made.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Could the Prime Minister tell us by whom any definite decision would be announced on behalf of the government in respect of this matter, bearing in mind that on November 13 the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry announced in Vancouver that no drilling permits would be granted, and that in the House on November 18, as reported at page 934 of *Hansard*, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources stated there had been no change in departmental policy. Can the Prime Minister tell us which minister in the government will be able to give a definitive answer with respect to the granting of oil permits in the Georgia Strait?

Mr. Trudeau: For the time being the question is hypothetical. I shall get the petition and see whether and how we should answer it.

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): I should like to ask the Prime Minister by way of a supplementary question whether, when looking into this matter, he would determine what consultation with the federal government, if any, was undertaken by the government of British Columbia prior to the issuance of these drilling permits?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[*Translation*]

BANK OF CANADA**POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF BRANCHES FOR FINANCING UNDERDEVELOPED AREAS**

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

The Liberal party bigwigs having gone into an important retreat that took place behind closed doors in British Columbia over the week-end, was the establishment of regional development banks, as branches of the Bank of Canada, suggested to help the financing of underdeveloped regions in Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I must point out that the question is groundless in every regard.

First of all, it was not a retreat behind closed doors. It was not a retreat, but an advance. And then, far from being closed, it

[*Mr. Trudeau.*]

was, on the contrary, a very open meeting, and no resolution such as the hon. member has mentioned was introduced.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question.

Assuming that it was a very open meeting, would the Prime Minister be in a position to tell us if, on the other hand, the government intends during this session to introduce a bill to create regional banks?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): A supplementary question to the Solicitor General, Mr. Speaker. What is the minister doing to soothe the acute embarrassment caused by an over-zealous member of the RCMP, posing as a journalist, who attempted to prevent an invited guest from confronting the Liberal establishment at Harrison Hot Springs?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON AID**

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Would the minister make a statement on motions or in some other way to establish the government's position on external aid, in view of the extraordinary statement he is alleged to have made on the subject, namely, "I think we should give aid to promote revolution which is very much needed"?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I have been misquoted. What I did say was that "I think we should give aid even though revolution may result".

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is worse than the original statement.

Mr. MacLean: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the innate sense of fairness of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, would it be fair to assume that he would not take for himself rights that he would not grant others, and that therefore any revolutionary activities carried on in