

Mr. McCleave: Will the Solicitor General consider making a statement on this matter to the House?

Mr. Trudeau: I am sure he will consider it, Mr. Speaker.

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GRAIN

REQUEST FOR FORGIVENESS OF OVERPAYMENTS TO FARMERS IN LIGHT OF FORGIVENESS OF DUTIES AND TAXES OWING BY CAR MANUFACTURER

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice who is also in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the fact that a major car manufacturer owes the Crown \$6 million in duties and sales tax and that this debt is to be forgiven, I wonder whether the minister or the government would give consideration to a similar forgiveness of overpayments to farmers, as described in the Auditor General's report?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I do not see the connection between the two situations described by the hon. member. Specific overpayments are, of course, looked at on their own merits and a decision is made on that basis.

REQUEST FOR REFERENCE OF WHEAT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT TO COMMITTEE

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, would the minister in charge of the Wheat Board accede to the repeated requests that have been made in committee that the Canadian Wheat Board's annual report be referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture in the very near future?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Yes, Mr. Speaker. As I have indicated to the House, I do intend to do this. I am aware of the fact that the committee has a fairly full load of work, but I do propose to put down a motion referring the report very soon.

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UNITED NATIONS

REDUCTION OF CONTRIBUTION BY UNITED STATES—POSSIBLE SIMILAR ACTION BY CANADA

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Thank you for your recognition, Mr. Speaker. I thought it was the brown suit blending in with the furniture. My question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that last week the United States Congress voted to reduce its United Nations contribution from 32 per cent to 25 per cent, is the Canadian government contemplating any similar adjustment to its U.N. contribution?

• (1510)

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker. I might add that the Secretary General spoke to me about the financial problems facing the United Nations and is concerned about this action of

Inquiries of the Ministry

the United States Congress. He is hopeful that this matter can be resolved, as in the past, by negotiation and discussion and not by unilateral action.

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FISHERIES

ATLANTIC SALMON FISHERY CLOSURE—COMPENSATION TO INDIANS ARISING FROM TREATY RIGHTS

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries which is supplementary to a question I asked last week. Has there been any agreement yet reached with the Indian people of the Atlantic region concerning compensation for their treaty rights involved in the ban on the Atlantic salmon fishery there?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, the answer is no. There are very few native people involved, and they are to my knowledge principally in New Brunswick. Discussions are proceeding with these people.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES—CANADIAN REPRESENTATION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Fisheries whether Canada is represented at the annual meeting of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries in Washington today at the ministerial level because of the importance of this conference to Canada and, if not, why not? Perhaps the minister could tell us who is representing Canada?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, customarily ministers do not appear at these commission meetings, except in the case where the country is the host. I appeared briefly last year to welcome the national delegations that were there. There are no ministers presently in Washington. We are represented by Dr. A. W. H. Needler, who is head of the delegation and formerly our Deputy Minister of Fisheries in Ottawa. He is supported by a number of people from the industry on the east and west coasts and fishermen.

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HEALTH

GENETIC DEFECTS—POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF SCREENING CLINICS

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the very serious genetic defects being experienced by Canadian people, has the minister any plans to set up screening clinics across Canada?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, surely the hon. member must be aware that if such clinics were set up they would fall