

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I am not able to, but I hope within the next few weeks.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Is the minister aware that about eight weeks ago he promised the co-operative he would meet them within six weeks, and he is now projecting it weeks and weeks into the future?

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[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE**INCREASE IN THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS—
REQUIRY FOR INQUIRY**

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Following yesterday's publication of an Information Canada bulletin stating that the number of so-called therapeutic abortions in Canada has tripled during 1971, compared with 1970, can the minister say whether his department has made an investigation to determine whether all these abortions were therapeutic, or whether they were the result of the practice of abortion on request?

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would advise the hon. member that it is not the function of my department to police the manner in which the law is being applied in this particular area. Having said that, I would advise him that we have officials looking into and compiling of statistics generally with respect to therapeutic abortions in Canada.

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BRIDGES**RICHMOND, B.C.—ACCESS SYSTEM TO HUDON STREET
BRIDGE—DINSMORE BRIDGE ALIGNMENT—
GOVERNMENT DECISION**

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Has his department yet made a decision on a road plan with the municipality of Richmond in British Columbia for the access system to the Hudon Street bridge and Dinsmore bridge alignment to Sea Island?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes to the extent that we have rearranged the design and have submitted it to the Richmond town or city council. The only thing I am not certain about is whether we have total approval from the council as to the design.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt very much whether the question should have been allowed in the first instance. There may be an element of national interest and urgency which escapes the Chair, but the question having been allowed perhaps the hon. member might ask a brief supplementary.

[Mr. Howard (Skeena)]

Mr. Aiken: Will the department now release the municipality from the restriction on release of the plan so that it may be discussed generally by the citizens?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. If such restrictions exist, and they may for some purpose of which I am not aware, I will look into it and be glad to do that.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**DENMARK—DENIAL THAT DANISH FISHING CAUSE OF
DEPLETION OF ATLANTIC SALMON STOCKS—
GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In light of the statement made by the counsellor of the Danish Embassy in Ottawa that there exists no scientific evidence that Danish fishing for Atlantic salmon is the cause of the recent decline of the salmon population in the spawning rivers, can the minister advise if he shares the contrary view expressed by the Minister of Fisheries and if this view is being presented to the government of Denmark either through the embassy in Ottawa or in Copenhagen?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, quite obviously, unless I shared the view and unless the whole of the government shared the views of the Minister of Fisheries, we would not have a very good case. We do have a good case. We believe there is fishing for salmon on the high seas that does affect the catch of salmon throughout the world and the survival of that species. This is the point of view we have urged upon the Danish government and why we believe they should co-operate with us.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are two minutes left before the end of the question period and perhaps we should try to limit supplementaries.

Mr. Macquarrie: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister if he has conveyed to the government of Denmark the invitation issued by the Minister of Fisheries to the people of Canada to avoid the purchase of Danish goods?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday, the Minister of Fisheries was expressing a personal view. He prefaced it by saying that he did not advocate any change in Canadian government policy. If my hon. friend would like to emulate the Minister of Fisheries in this sort of appeal, we would have no objection.

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FISHERIES**ATLANTIC SALMON FISHERY CLOSURES—DATE OF
MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER AND NEWFOUNDLAND
FISHERMEN TO DISCUSS COMPENSATION**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Fisheries when he intends to meet the Newfoundland salmon fishermen to