

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I will be very pleased to consider this representation.

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LABOUR RELATIONS**WEST COAST GRAIN HANDLERS DISPUTE—PROGRESS OF CONCILIATION BOARD**

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. Has a progress report been received from the conciliation board appointed by the federal government to assist in working out a contract between grain handlers on the west coast and the employers?

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, both parties have agreed upon a chairman for the conciliation board and preparations are being made to bring representatives of the two parties together before the board.

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FINANCE**INQUIRY AS TO PRESENTATION OF BUDGET**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. In view of the extent of the indecision that seems to reign in government circles these days—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: —I ask the Prime Minister whether he has yet given the Minister of Finance permission to bring in a budget?

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**ALLEGED ADVERTISING OF BENEFITS AS PART OF CONDITIONS IN EMPLOYMENT OF MATES ON FISHING VESSELS**

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Is the minister aware that west coast fishermen are advertising for fishermen's mates for the current season on the basis of 15 per cent of the gross catch plus \$400 a month, plus unemployment insurance guaranteed for a number of months?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, knowing the vagaries of the sea and recognizing the fact that most fishermen in this country have a very indefinite type of income and should be assisted rather than ridiculed, I think that type of advertisement is not necessarily out of order.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Forrestall.]

Mr. Hellyer: Will the minister be less flippant and investigate the allegation and, if it is proved to be correct, introduce some changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act which will remove some of these grotesque anomalies?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, the advertisement which the hon. member has described is certainly quite legal. If he knew a little more about the fishing industry and how it is—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have reached the end of the question period. The House might allow the Chair to recognize the hon. member for Kootenay West who has been trying to ask a question for at least two days.

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POLLUTION**PROCLAMATION OF ARCTIC WATERS POLLUTION PREVENTION AND NORTHERN INLAND WATERS ACTS—AVAILABILITY OF REGULATIONS**

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the need for more environmental protection in the north, I ask the minister whether the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act and the Northern Inland Waters Act which were passed a year ago have been proclaimed by the government and, if not, when will these acts be officially proclaimed?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned they have been proclaimed. However, I will double-check and inform the hon. member accordingly.

Mr. Harding: Have the regulations governing both these acts been drafted by the minister's department and, if so, are they available to members?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I believe these regulations were promulgated by the Privy Council and should be made available to hon. members. I shall see that they are handed to the hon. member.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It is in the form of a request to the Secretary of State for External Affairs to seek the consent of the House to revert to motions so that he can make a statement on the situation of Canadians in the war zones in Viet Nam.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure that this is entirely in order, but with the consent of the House the Secretary of State for External Affairs might be allowed to reply to the question.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.