[Translation]

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

QUEBEC—ADMINISTRATION OF ESKIMO AFFAIRS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

A few months ago the province of Quebec appointed a new Minister of Natural Resources. Has the minister received new requests for the transfer of the administration of Eskimo affairs from the federal government to the government of the province of Quebec?

[English]

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): No, Mr. Speaker.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I have a question to put to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that Mr. Kierans was expressing the views of the Canadian people in his letter of December 6 to the United States Secretary of Commerce, protesting the intrusion of the United States government into Canadian affairs, why did the minister not make this protest on behalf of Canada instead of, by his silence, making it necessary for the provincial minister to do so for him?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is not a question; it is an argument.

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

BILINGUAL REQUIREMENTS RESPECTING FRENCH NETWORK EMPLOYEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State.

Is it true that the C.B.C. requires its French network employees to be bilingual? If so, does the C.B.C. intend to pay a special bonus to such employees?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would suggest that the hon. member put his question on the order paper.

Mr. Allard: Mr. Speaker, may I point out that the Secretary of State was about to answer.

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

SHIPBUILDING

BRITISH COLUMBIA—APPLICATION OF SUBSIDY TO PROVINCIAL FERRIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport which relates to a matter of urgency. Is the government giving immediate reconsideration to its discriminatory policy against the province of British Columbia of not allowing a federal ship subsidy on any new vessels that may be required by the B.C. ferry service, which is a provincial crown corporation?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): There is no discrimination against any province. The proposals will apply to all provinces.

Mr. Winch: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. May I ask if the Minister of Transport is not aware that the only provincial ferry service in Canada is operated by the province of British Columbia? This policy therefore is a direct discrimination against my own province. Will the minister reconsider?

Mr. Pickersgill: Not only is the minister not aware, but that is not a fact, Mr. Speaker; there are other provinces which have a ferry service.

FISHERIES

ADVERSE PUBLICITY ABROAD REGARDING SEAL HUNTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question that I should like to direct to the Minister of Fisheries. It has to do with the very adverse publicity which Canada is receiving abroad at this time over the alleged slaughter of seals. I had thought this matter had been cleared up last session, but in view of the renewed charges this week I wonder if the minister would give us the facts.

Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, this is a problem that has created general interest in the house and throughout the country, and is now unfortunately spreading abroad and seriously damaging the image Canada enjoys. In order to clarify the situation may I beg the indulgence of the house to give a full reply to this question? The reply would be longer than is usually permitted at this time. If I have the