

FISHERIES

EFFECT OF OPERATIONS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS—
ACTION TO ACHIEVE CONSERVATION

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment and Fisheries. In view of the increasing activity of foreign nationals fishing off Canada's east coast and the serious decline in the catches of the inshore fishermen, can the minister say whether his department has taken any initiative to bring about conservation, or does the minister intend to take any new initiatives?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member indicated, the situation is a very serious one and the department is doing all it can in order to ensure that foreign fishermen do not take too many fish off our East coast.

Mr. Carter: Can the minister tell the House if it is his intention to convene a meeting of the fishing nations of the world to bring about some method of conservation, or does he expect this matter to resolve itself or to be resolved at the next Law of the Sea Conference?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, we had such a meeting at Halifax in June and there are further meetings scheduled for this fall. Of course the next Law of the Sea Conference is coming up in 1973.

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INCOME TAX

ALLEGED CONFUSION IN NEW BILL—REQUEST FOR
CLARIFICATION

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In light of accusations at the Canadian Bar Association's annual meeting held at Banff in that great Tory province of Alberta—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Paproski:—that the drafting of the new tax bill is so complicated and ill-defined that neither the public nor the legal profession will know what Parliament will be voting on this fall, is the government at least going to publish the bill's new concepts in clear language, as was suggested, before the House debates the new act?

• (3:00 p.m.)

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I believe the bill is in clear language. I also believe that people have had an ample period of time—

Some hon. Members: We cannot hear you.

Mr. Benson:—in which to study the bill, and it is our intention to proceed with the bill.

Inquiries of the Ministry

POLLUTION

THREAT FROM SUNKEN "IRVING WHALE" AND "IRVING
LAKE"—REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT ON REMOVAL

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. In view of the announced intention of the minister to try to alleviate the considerable danger posed by the *Irving Whale* presently resting at the bottom of the sea close to Prince Edward Island, and in particular the danger of pollution to the northern coast of the island, can the minister make a progress report on the removal of the *Irving Whale* and also a progress report on steps to deal with the *Irving Lake* which has been a threat to the coast of New Brunswick for over eight years?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, on September 2 there was a meeting held in Montreal of potential tenderers for the job of either lifting the vessel or removing the oil from it. As a result, there was an on-site inspection arranged for all the tenderers so that they would be able to see all the circumstances at first hand. After that is done we will get their proposals, but no decision will be made either to remove the *Whale* or to take the oil from it until we are absolutely certain that the maximum amount of protection is provided.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNITED STATES IMPORT SURTAX—ESTIMATED VALUE
OF LOST SALES OF CANADIAN PRODUCTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Can he say whether or not the Canadian government has been able to estimate the dollar value loss in sales of Canadian products to the United States as a result of the surtax?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of pages in my speech dealing with that.

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INDUSTRY

PULP AND PAPER—GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO FIND
MARKETS—SPECIAL ASSISTANCE MEASURES

Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Can the minister inform the House of any initiatives taken by his department to find markets for the Canadian pulp and paper industry, especially in view of the severe difficulties being suffered by some of our mills, and is the minister in a position to say if his department intends to take some special measures to assist the industry through this rough period?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, a number of measures were taken to assist the industry in the last budget. With respect