

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. McGrath:** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, which I can perhaps direct to the government House leader, whom we all welcome back to the House. Would the government, in view of the importance of this subject, give consideration to referring this matter to the appropriate committee of the House for investigation so that the evidence can be heard and correlated?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the hon. member for his first but, I am sure, not his last question to me this session. As in respect of all the others, I will take it into consideration.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Again I seek the co-operation of hon. members. I will recognize the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate, but if he will look to his left and other hon. members will look around them, they will see how many hon. members are anxious to ask questions. For this reason, I suggest there should not be so many supplementary questions.

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** May we be assured that the position of the federal government will be made clear to international bodies responsible in respect of pollution in order that our attitude toward this incident will be clear?

**Mr. Greene:** Yes. I think international questions in respect of ocean pollution are very much at the forefront of discussions. I believe Canada will be represented this weekend at an international conference which will discuss this specific matter.

GULF OF GEORGIA—REPRESENTATIONS  
FROM LABOUR ON OIL DRILLING

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Fisheries, may I direct a related question to the attention of the minister's usually well informed parliamentary secretary.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Mather:** Have representations been received from labour organizations in British Columbia protesting what they consider to be threatened pollution in Canada's Garden of Eden as a result of impending plans to drill for oil in the Gulf of Georgia—

[Mr. Greene.]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member has had the floor for a while now. Will he put his question?

**Mr. Mather:** Mr. Speaker, have representations been received from British Columbia organizations protesting the impending plans for oil drilling in the Gulf of Georgia?

**Mr. E. F. Whelan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. During our investigations we found that the province has given authority for seismic testing. We do not feel that this testing will cause any damage to marine life, but the federal authorities certainly will be taking a hard look at this project before giving any drilling permits in this area, because of the pollution risk.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NIGERIA-BIAFRA—STEPS TO OVERCOME  
BLOCKADE OF RELIEF SUPPLIES

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister in relation to his remarks on October 24 in the House about the relief program for Nigeria-Biafra. He indicated that if the present blockade of the relief operation is not removed quickly, other appropriate steps will be taken. Can he give us some idea as to how long this government is going to wait, and make some suggestion as to the other initiatives that might now be open to it.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may answer this question on behalf of the Prime Minister. We have recently held conversations with the Candian Red Cross. General Wrinch is now in Geneva and we are hoping to hear from him soon. The main problem, as the hon. member knows, is that they have not been able to work out an agreement on daylight flights, which is by far the best way to handle the matter. If this cannot be accomplished, we will have to look at the situation again. In the meantime, we are talking to the Red Cross. I think it is most important that we should not undermine the efforts of that great international organization.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, since our government has now waited many months for the Red Cross to clear up these difficulties, can the minister indicate whether any deadline has been expressed or what is the exact interpretation to be placed on the words of the Prime Minister "not quickly removed"?