

*Inquiries of the Ministry.*

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I seem to be a little slow today, but that does strike me as a very good question for the order paper.

**Mr. Cashin:** Mr. Speaker, I serve notice that I will be debating this question at ten o'clock.

## NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING SATELLITE TRACKING STATION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, now that you have allowed that last important question maybe I can rephrase the question I put to the Minister of Transport last week in regard to the construction of a multimillion dollar satellite tracking station in eastern Canada. Are negotiations still going on between the governments of the United States and Canada and, if so, how soon can we expect a further announcement regarding developments with respect to this matter?

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the negotiations are going very well, but I should not like to predict when they will be concluded.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## ASSISTANCE TO JAPAN FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Has the Canadian government made any offer of assistance to the government of Japan to assist those who have been afflicted by the disastrous earthquake in that country?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, nor have we yet received detailed reports of the unhappy damage in that country.

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

## REPORTED RELATION BETWEEN CONSUMPTION OF FISH AND CANCER

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

**Mr. Marcel Lessard (Lake St. John):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries?

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

In view of the statement that I heard last night concerning fish, does the minister propose to set up an inquiry into the merit of that statement to the effect that the consumption of fish could be one of the direct causes of stomach cancer? We would also like to know whether the minister proposes to launch a drive against fishing and fisheries as his colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss LaMarsh), did against the use of cigarettes?

[Text]

**Mr. Speaker:** Would the hon. member put this important question on the order paper.

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the import of this question is of such a nature and of such great importance to a vast number of people in one of the primary industries of Canada that, with great deference to you, sir, it should not be placed on the order paper, but that if the Minister of Fisheries is in a position to make a reply of some nature at this time he should now do so.

**Mr. Speaker:** With the unanimous consent of the house, if the minister is ready, and in view of the importance of the question, the minister may be prepared to make a statement.

[Translation]

**Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries):** Mr. Speaker, the question is so important that it would be impossible for me to deal with it during the question period. But all hon. members can take my word for it, it is a good thing to eat fish at every opportunity.

**Mr. Lessard (Lake St. John):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Since the minister willingly replied "with your approval", I feel the question I raised is most important, as mentioned by the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg (Mr. Crouse), and I think the minister should take it more seriously and give it the consideration it deserves.

**Mr. Robichaud:** In order to give the matter more serious consideration, I should have to see and examine this report.