

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CUBA AND ALGERIA—ALLEGED PRESENCE OF FLQ
ELEMENTS

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Has he met representatives of Cuba and Algeria in order to know if some FLQ members would now be in those countries?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, we have had no such conversations with the governments of Cuba or Algeria. Of course, we did make contact with them, for example, before making our offer of safe conduct to Cuba. That offer could not have been made without the agreement of the government of Cuba.

[Translation]

CUBA—ALLEGED OFFER OF SAFE CONDUCT TO
PAUL ROSE AND ASSOCIATES

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Could he not inquire whether the Cuban authorities in Montreal have already offered safe-conduct to Paul Rose or his allies?

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[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

TIME OF DEBATE ON PUBLIC ORDER (TEMPORARY MEASURES)
BILL—REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Government House Leader when the government intends to initiate debate on the bill introduced today by the Minister of Justice and whether it is the intention of the government that examination of the bill be undertaken by the Committee of the Whole in lieu of a standing committee?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I propose that we begin discussion of the bill on Wednesday. It is the intention of the government to refer the bill to the Committee of the Whole.

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POLLUTION

WABIGOON—ENGLISH RIVER SYSTEM—ACTION TO ELIMINATE
MERCURY CONTAMINATION OF FISH AND
PROTECT HEALTH OF INDIANS

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): My question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry who deals also with matters of pollution. It is based on the allegation of the Ontario Water Resources Commission that mercury pollution originating from Dryden Chemicals Limited has affected fish for hundreds of miles down the Wabigoon-

Inquiries of the Ministry

English River system as far as Hudson Bay. Has the federal government entered into discussions with the appropriate Ontario and Manitoba authorities concerning this critical situation? Also, what steps have been taken to protect the health of Indians in the area who have no alternative to fish as a staple in their food diet?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, we are continuously in touch with both the province of Ontario and the province of Manitoba in this connection. With respect to fishermen, including native fishermen, we have been purchasing all the fish offered regardless of their mercury content, or making loans where the lakes were closed.

[Later:]

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): My question is supplementary to one asked earlier of the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry but is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It is with regard to the alarming mercury poisoning. Will the minister inquire to ascertain whether the results of blood tests carried out on native Indians, particularly Indian children, could be communicated to the band chief in the area concerned?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I see no objection to that.

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Fisheries. Is the minister prepared to take action under the provisions of the Canada Water Act to combat the extensive mercury pollution in the river systems around Dryden, Ontario?

Mr. Davis: Yes, Mr. Speaker, but I do not see an immediate application of the Canada Water Act.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MIDDLE EAST—CANADIAN REACTION TO BRITISH
POLICY STATEMENT

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is based upon the comprehensive policy statement made by the British Foreign Secretary on the Middle East situation. Can the minister advise whether the Canadian government had foreknowledge of this important policy statement? Does the Canadian government look with favour upon the suggestions of the British for ameliorating this difficult situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have doubts about the question of the hon. member, particularly the second part. However, the matter is of interest. Perhaps the minister might be allowed to reply, with the consent of the House.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I was not personally aware of the contents of the British statement in advance, Mr. Speaker. I will look at it to see whether I care to comment.