Inquiries of the Ministry

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

INQUIRY AS TO SIGNING OF NEW AGREEMENTS WITH PROVINCES—EFFECTS OF ACT ON NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Is he now prepared to announce when new agreements with the various provinces will be signed and, in particular, will the agreement with the province of Newfoundland take into account the present discriminatory effects of the Regional Development Incentives Act on that province?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I believe a speech would be needed to answer that question. If the matter deals merely with the renewal of the agreement, I hope that this will be done shortly, but I do not yet have any date in mind.

[English]

Mr. McGrath: As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Chair has already sought the co-operation of hon. members regarding supplementary questions. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for St. John's East for one supplementary and then call on the hon. member for Annapolis Valley.

Mr. McGrath: I repeat my original question. When will the new agreements be signed—new, not renewed—and will the agreement with Newfoundland take into account the discriminatory effects on that province of the present Regional Development Incentives Act? It is a very simple question.

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): That is not a simple question, Mr. Speaker. I am not at all ready to say that the department's present programs discriminate against Newfoundland. Therefore, I reject that part of the question and refuse to answer it.

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

ECOLOGICAL STUDIES OF ST. JAMES PROJECT

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Are officials of his department carrying on ecological studies of the St. James project and, if not, why not? If so, will he assure the House that there will be a statement made in the House that no adverse affects will occur to the St. James area if certain developments proceed?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I shall have to make inquiries and answer the hon. gentleman as soon as I get a reply.

[Mr. Mackasey.]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED AMCHITKA UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS— REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry who reports on pollution matters and who comes from British Columbia. In connection with the representations being made to the United States regarding the potential pollution threat to British Columbia shores from the carriage of Alaskan oil down the west coast by tanker, is the government giving consideration to renewing its representations to Washington opposing the large underground nuclear tests scheduled to take place in the north Pacific?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): I understand the answer is yes, Mr. Speaker. However, that question might better be addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs when he returns to the House shortly.

NATIONAL REVENUE

EMPLOYEES' COURSES ON TAX REFORM—NATURE OF INSTRUCTION

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question either to the Minister of Finance or to the Minister of National Revenue, whichever one sees fit to answer it. Have any key employees of the Department of National Revenue been transferred to Ottawa for training courses with regard to changes in income tax in anticipation of the introduction of such changes by the Minister of Finance? Will these officials then be sent to various centres across the country to teach other officials, and to what extent have they been given instructions to follow the proposals set out in the white paper?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, plans are being made to train staff once the bill is made public and also when the decisions of the House are available. So far as the exact timing of this work is concerned, I would be happy to inform myself further and then advise the hon. member.

[Translation]

NATIONAL FILM BOARD

ALLEGED CENSORSHIP OF FILM "ON EST AU COTON"

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Secretary of State about another question I asked the right hon. Prime Minister yesterday.

The National Film Board made the motion picture "On est au coton" in Magog, Coaticook and Sherbrooke, about the problem of textile products. Since the showing of the film has been delayed, I would like to ask the hon. Secretary of State if it is true that some members of his staff have seen the film which would have been forbidden or censured because of its content?