

requesting support for a continental shelf fisheries policy?

Mr. Speaker: Order. If we are dealing with an event which will take place in the month of June, I would think that the question might be placed on the order paper.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO SETTING UP OF PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, since the minister has been speaking about activity, I wonder when we may expect the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs to announce the appointment of the commission relating to prices which was forecast as long ago as last December and about which I have asked umpteenth times in the house, but with no result?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I have said a number of times, I welcome the interest and support of the Leader of the Opposition in regard to this commission, which I hope to announce shortly.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PASSPORTS—EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENTS IN PROCESSING

Mr. Hyl Chappell (Peel South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. To further speed up the processing of passport applications, would he take advantage of the availability of students for summer employment and place the department temporarily on a two or three shift basis?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have been talking with the administration about measures of this kind. There are some very real difficulties involved, because of the limitations on a number of key personnel, in the proposal to have shifts. We have already moved to an overtime basis and I have asked the director to consider whether he could move to at least a two shift basis. This is under serious consideration.

DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE WITH THE VATICAN

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, today is May Day and I should like to address my question to the Prime Minister. It arises from the May Day message of His Holiness Pope Paul VI, calling upon civil governments

Inquiries of the Ministry

everywhere to seek to stop the exploitation of man by man. Has the Prime Minister sufficient feeling about this matter to want to respond in some appropriate way?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have sufficient feeling about it to respond, and I hope that we will have the support of the hon. member's party when we take further steps to open up negotiations with Vatican representatives.

[Later:]

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether his comment a moment ago indicates that the government of Canada has decided to proceed with an exchange of representatives with the Vatican.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as the house knows, we opened this question for debate some months ago in this country and have received representations from all sides. What I indicated a moment ago was that I welcomed this additional support from the N.D.P.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Prime Minister what is the score in this debate at the present time?

MAINLAND CHINA—U.S. PROTEST NOTE RESPECTING CANADIAN RECOGNITION

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Did Canada receive a note from the United States expressing strong reservations with regard to Canada's intention to open relations with China, and was that note replied to by the minister or any official of the government?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in reply to a similar question, I would have to check the records. The Secretary of State of the United States made oral representations to me and I gave the Canadian government point of view. Even if such representations did exist, I would not table them, of course; they would be privileged documents.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister be so kind as to check the records, as he suggested, and to advise the house and the Canadian people?