

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I can think of nothing stronger to say than that it is our island.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, would the minister like to be as definite and forthright about that area off the Pacific coast in Dixon Entrance which is Canadian territory but which has been invaded from time to time by U.S. coastguard vessels?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we do regard that also as Canadian territory, but the United States does not accept our position.

* * *

UNITED NATIONS

CANADIAN PROPOSAL FOR RESTORATION OF
FINANCIAL STABILITY

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of Mr. U Thant's statement that the United Nations is financially bankrupt, has the Canadian government any proposal to put before the General Assembly or the Security Council in order to get this organization in a more satisfactory financial situation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, you will recall that I made some proposals for economies in words as well as in expenses of the United Nations, and these have been acted on to some extent but not as far as we would like to have been. We hope this will be of some value, and of course we always pay our own contributions promptly, which is more than can be said for some countries.

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Speaker, will the Canadian government put forward any resolution at the meetings of the United Nations in an attempt to get those nations which are in a deficit position as far as their payments are concerned to pay up?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have been endeavouring to do this for a number of years but with indifferent success.

[Later:]

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the question regarding the statement of the Secretary General of the United Nations about the intolerable financial situation of the organization. Does the government intend, when Premier Kosygin is here next month, to bring up with him the matter of the unpaid dues owing by the U.S.S.R. to the United Nations?

Mr. Sharp: No, I would not think so, Mr. Speaker. We have other matters of at least as great urgency of a multilateral character and also bilateral relations between Canada and the Soviet Union to discuss. We have been pressing for a resolution of that question where we should, at the United Nations itself. There are more countries than the Soviet Union involved.

[Mr. Howard (Skeena).]

CANADIAN POSITION RESPECTING TYPE OF SECRETARY
GENERAL REQUIRED

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question in relation to the United Nations. Perhaps it is more of a related than a supplementary question. Does the Canadian government subscribe to the position of a weak Secretary General as outlined yesterday over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation by our ambassador to the United Nations?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I doubt very much that our ambassador would have said any such thing, but I can certainly say the government of Canada hopes that the successor to U Thant will be a strong and very imaginative man because the world needs a strong Secretary General at the United Nations.

* * *

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the Prime Minister will be visiting Winnipeg before the Kosygin visit, and plans to speak to the Ukrainian-Canadian community of that area, would he have the hon. member for High Park proofread his speech so he will not again alienate the Ukrainian Canadians?

Mr. Speaker: Order please. Is the hon. member rising on a question of privilege?

Mr. Deakon: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I should like to thank the hon. member for Edmonton Centre for his kind and gratuitous remark. I can assure him I have not reached this esteemed position yet, but I would like to recommend to all Canadians, especially those of Ukrainian and other ethnic origins, that they should listen to the Prime Minister's speech as I am sure it will be interesting and informative.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, speaking of the Prime Minister's speeches, I notice he has been making a study of the practices of businessmen among the ancient Phoenicians, and I was wondering whether this is the origin of the government's current economic theories and standards?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I suggest to hon. members that we should perhaps limit the number of supplementary questions. I make this as a suggestion to hon. members as we will be running short of time in a few minutes. Perhaps we should make an attempt to give as many members as possible an opportunity to ask questions.

* * *

ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF CANADA

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIRMAN

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister when he