

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have had limited communication with our ambassador in Chile but it has been sufficient to establish that as far as he is aware the Canadians in Chile are safe and well.

Mr. Grier: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment.

An hon. Member: Where is he?

Mr. Grier: I am sorry. I thought the Minister of the Environment was in his place. Since he is not, I will defer my question.

SUGGESTED PROTEST AGAINST RUNNING DOWN OF CANADIAN FISHING VESSEL BY FRENCH SHIP

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Recently he informed the House that he was having consultations with the French ambassador about a vessel of Canadian registry travelling in international waters adjacent to French territory. I should like to ask the minister today whether he would agree to hold further conversations with the French ambassador about a vessel of French registry travelling at high speed through heavy fog in territory adjacent to our coast, ignoring recognized international navigation rules and running down a Canadian fishing vessel?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): If the hon. gentleman will provide me with the details I will be very happy to follow this through.

* * *

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

CANCELLATION OF SUBSIDY ON BUILDING OF SMALL SHIPS—EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT IN COASTAL PROVINCES

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. A few days ago I asked him some questions in connection with a disastrous decision of the Minister of the Environment which resulted in the loss of the fishing boat subsidy during the fall period, a period of heavy construction. The minister gave us to understand that arrangements were being made to provide additional funds so that no work presently under way would be terminated and no significant number of jobs lost. Can the minister tell us whether those arrangements have been worked out and what machinery will be set up to deal with this important problem?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Officials of DREE and of the Department of the Environment are at present consulting on the details with the provinces. The question that has to be determined from the provinces is just what volume of additional subsidy or work is necessary to keep these yards going for a period of 90 days, approximately 30 of

Oral Questions

which have gone by. What we are seeking now is a formula through which sufficient additional grants, or whatever the proper description might be, can be provided authorizing those yards to continue where, in fact, there is now some slack. So far as we have been able to determine, the need is not extensive in many areas of Atlantic Canada, but that is a statistic we are trying to get at the present time.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Can the minister tell us specifically which provinces have not yet indicated the extent of the need? I have particularly in mind Prince Edward Island where more than 100 vessels would be affected this fall. Can he tell us whether satisfactory arrangements have been reached with that province?

Mr. Jamieson: Without challenging the hon. member's comment, may I say I doubt very much whether 100 vessels would be affected. We are talking about a 90-day period; there is nothing which says the subsidy will not be continued beyond that date. This is merely covering the period when an assessment is being made of the ships and vessels that ought to be authorized. I cannot conceive of 100 vessels being deprived of the subsidy, but if the hon. member would give me more details I would be glad to look into it. To the best of my knowledge, during the 90-day period there are no significant losses as far as employment is concerned. If, of course, the freeze were to continue, the story might be entirely different. But I do not expect it will.

* * *

ENERGY

OIL PRICE FREEZE—POSITION OF CONSUMERS IN QUEBEC AND ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might be permitted to return to the first question I put to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I asked him about the position of consumers of petroleum products in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces. Is it the position of the government that while the five-month freeze does not apply to crude imported into Canada, consumers in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces will not suffer any continuing disparity compared with consumers in other parts of the country because the domestic price of crude will move freely as the international price of crude moves as determined at the landing point in Montreal? Is that a correct statement?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): The proposal now under discussion is to use a Montreal base price related to the landed international price of crude at Montreal.