

[Translation]

POLLUTION

GASPÉ—LEAKAGE OF OIL FROM TANKER "ESSO KOBE"

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

Has he been advised that the tanker *Esso Kobe* is now experiencing some difficulties at the Mont-Louis wharf in the Gaspé area, after striking a reef, and that oil is escaping from one of its compartments? If so, are the officials of the Department of Transport supervising pollution control operations?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, a preliminary inquiry began yesterday into this particular oil spill. The evidence so far indicates that some oil leaked from the vessel while it was being unloaded. Divers discovered that there was a rupture in one of the tanks. That tank was emptied. The oil that actually seeped on to the surface was destroyed by chemicals.

* * *

CANADA SHIPPING ACT

SUGGESTED REFERENCE OF AMENDING BILL TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): May I ask the Minister of Transport what success he has had in connection with the undertaking he gave to the House to have Bill C-2, amendments to the Canada Shipping Act dealing with pollution, referred to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications instead of the Special Committee on Environmental Pollution as it now stands?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I think this is a matter for the House or House Leaders to discuss. I have not been personally involved. I indicated that I am quite prepared to have it go to either committee.

* * *

NAVIGATION

SEABED OUTCROPPINGS IN NORTHWEST PASSAGE—LIMITING OF USE UNTIL INSTALLATION OF MARKERS

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the newly discovered outcroppings from the seabed which extend to within 50 feet of the surface in the Northwest Passage, will any steps be taken to limit navigation in these waters until some new type of suitable navigation marker is installed?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): At the moment there is no indication of any sizeable increase in the amount of traffic through the Northwest Passage. I agree that this has created an additional

Inquiries of the Ministry

hazard. The officials are examining it. Obviously that portion of the passage will now be marked, but there is a necessity for a much more comprehensive hydrographic survey of that region in order that these unknown obstacles will be identified if and when the passage is used on a regular basis.

* * *

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REMOVAL OF BUDGET FREEZE—COMPLETION OF DESTROYER CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. I welcome him back to the House. I hope he had a good trip west. Has the minister either directly or indirectly requested the government to release the current freeze on the budget of the Department of National Defence?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for his kind remarks. I want to say how much those of us who attended the Nuclear Planning Group appreciated the hospitality we received in the west, which I am sure would have been matched in the east. As to the hon. member's question, the answer is no.

Mr. Forrestall: I have a supplementary which is of some consequence, Mr. Speaker. Since the minister is apparently not in a position to tell us the result of the review of the DDH-280 program, would he indicate how in God's name he will be able to pay for it unless he gets some more money?

Mr. Speaker: Order. To the Chair, at least, that sounds like an argument—the initiation of a debate.

Mr. Forrestall: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to this important matter the minister has my full support. I want him to have more money.

* * *

FINANCE

SUGGESTED INTERIM INCOME TAX CHANGES TO ASSIST PENSIONERS

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Having regard to the delay which is being experienced in bringing in over-all income tax changes, is the government giving consideration to an interim measure which would remove some of the anomalies and unfairnesses faced by persons whose only income is their pensions?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): If there are to be changes in taxation they would, of course, be the subject of a budgetary statement in the House. If there are to be changes in other measures affecting older people, they would be announced in the House in due course.