

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. McGrath: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the permits which have already been issued be reviewed in light of amendments now proposed to the Fisheries Act to prevent pollution, and also the Canada Water Bill now before the House?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, in so far as the Canada Water Bill goes, there are no clauses or regulations in the bill which affect the question of offshore drilling. That comes under other statutory authority, and so it would have no effect. The new Fisheries Act of course envisages no specific controls over drilling. I do not believe it will do so specifically, but certainly the Minister of Fisheries under the act does have specific authority which from time to time he may see fit to exercise. But that does not involve our department's review of its total policy in respect of the issue of offshore licences.

POLLUTION**HOWE SOUND—RESULTS OF TESTS OF FISH**

Mr. Paul St. Pierre (Coast Chicotin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Can he inform the House of the results of testing for mercury pollution in Howe Sound? What species have been affected and when does the minister expect the fishery to reopen there?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, the results are mixed. Salmon and herring are all right so far as mercury is concerned, but some of the local stocks of shellfish contain pretty high levels of mercury. Therefore, the upper end of Howe Sound will remain closed for commercial fishing for these species.

LOCATION OF SOURCES OF MERCURY CONTAMINATION

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry whether his department or any other department is undertaking a crash program to locate and clean up the mercury pollution sources across the nation?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, we have had several meetings with both the pulp and paper industry and with that segment of the chemical industry using mercury in the production of soda ash and chlorine specifically, with that aim in view.

[Mr. Greene.]

AIR CANADA**POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF EASTERN HEADQUARTERS FROM HALIFAX TO MONTREAL**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport that is related to an earlier question. Do the changes which are going on at present in the reorganization of Air Canada include the removal of the Maritime regional office of Air Canada from Halifax to Montreal?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have been in conversation by phone with officials of Air Canada. I have asked them to send me a detailed report of the reorganization. I have also talked to my colleague the President of the Privy Council with a view to having the Air Canada report referred to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications at the earliest possible time. At that stage these questions can all be answered by people more competent to do so than I. This will be done as soon as the report on the reorganization is received from Air Canada.

Mr. Forrestall: Are we going to lose it?

Mr. Jamieson: If hot air were music, Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend would be a brass band. I was about to say that I will be prepared to provide him with a full report on the reorganization as soon as it is received.

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member resume his seat? I will recognize the hon. member in a moment. We have to get on to another subject. I notice quite a few members are anxious to ask questions. For the moment I will recognize the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants.

Mr. McCleave: The hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East asked the same specific question the other day and received a general answer. The specific question has not been answered. Does the minister mean that the decision of Air Canada, which surely the minister must have discussed when he referred this matter to Air Canada, is to obliterate the eastern regional office in favour of centralization somewhere else?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what I asked Air Canada. They replied that