

Oral Questions

price, would the minister consider contacting CIDA to see whether they have sufficient money on hand to assist the smelt fishermen in New Brunswick, who are only being paid eight to ten cents a pound for their fish?

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, we have looked at this possibility and many others, but at the moment that avenue does not seem to offer very good prospects.

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FINANCE**POSSIBLE SALE OF GOLD HOLDING—PROPOSED USE IN GOLD OLYMPIC COINS**

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. With gold selling this morning at \$183 per ounce, a figure more than four times the official price placed on the 22 million ounces of gold stashed away under the Bank of Canada on Wellington Street, would the minister indicate whether consideration is being given to selling part or all of this holding, bearing in mind that at today's price a profit of \$3 billion could be reaped, or some \$300 for every taxpayer in the country?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we hold to the policy of demonetizing gold. It really depends on agreement by the International Monetary Fund as to what the future of gold will be.

Mr. Stevens: A supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. Has the minister or the government been approached to sell part of this Canadian store of gold to facilitate the minting of gold Olympic coins, and if so what position has the government taken?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, that has not been brought to my attention, but I want to suggest to the hon. member that if every country were to accept the hon. member's suggestion, the plight of the third world in face of a revaluation of gold would be disastrous.

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FISHERIES**REQUEST FOR CONTINUATION OF SUBSIDY ON DOGFISH**

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Minister of State for Fisheries.

Could he make a statement to the House today concerning the subsidies to the dogfish industry which would continue its activities on the Pacific coast during the dead season, as I raised that question two weeks ago?

Hon. Romeo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to make a statement today. I will try to give an answer to the hon. member as soon as possible.

[Mr. Jones.]

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, there have been some discussions regarding the length of speeches in the following debate. It has been proposed that the first speaker for our side and, of course, the first speaker for the government should have 30 minutes; there will be 20 minutes each for the first speakers for the NDP and Creditistes; and thereafter the balance of the speeches will be 15 minutes each. That proposal seems to have some acceptance.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I think you will find this has been agreed to by all parties and by the independent member as well. When I suggested to the hon. member for Peace River that he get up, I was trying to remind him that today is Thursday and that he might like to ask about the business of the House.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, we took part in this debate and we maintain our support. We are satisfied with this agreement which will allow more members to speak and we hope that the Chair will fairly recognize each member in his turn.

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[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**WEEKLY STATEMENT**

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the reminder by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. I return to my duties by asking my co-operative friend, the government House leader, what business he has for tomorrow and next week.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, it is the intention to continue to give first priority to the income tax bill which is now in committee of the whole. It is the intention to call the committee to consider the bill again tomorrow and on Monday, or whenever is necessary. I hope it will be dealt with by Friday but I cannot, of course, commit the House. When that bill has proceeded through committee of the whole, it would then be the government's intention to call the bill to amend the National Housing Act.

● (1520)

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the government House leader a question in respect of House business. We all realize that in a day or so the minister will be presenting a motion to refer to committees the estimates of various departments. In the case of the estimates of the Department of Veterans Affairs, they of course will include the Hong Kong question but not the Hermann report. I wonder whether we can soon expect a motion referring the Hermann report to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I have been discussing this matter with my colleague the Minister of Veterans Affairs and, as I said earlier, we have had some correspondence from one of the principal veterans' organizations. It would