

Inquiries of the Ministry

and expressed our concern for their safety. Of course, we cannot prevent any Canadian from travelling on the high seas as he wishes, and if he chooses to go into an area of danger I really do not know what basis in law I would have to prevent him from doing so.

Mr. Rose: Since Canada has protested this nuclear test through a note, and in view of the fact that opposition to nuclear testing is within the four corners of Canadian government policy, and since this is a Canadian vessel on the high seas that is threatened, has the minister any explanation for this appalling external affairs timidity that would embarrass the president of a banana republic?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister is rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I should like to point out to the hon. gentleman that, far from being timid, this government has made very strong protests to the French government against nuclear weapons testing of all kinds.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is not privilege; that is an abuse.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will be recognized on a supplementary question, but we are obviously getting into a debate at this point. If the hon. member has a supplementary question he will be recognized for that purpose.

Mr. Rose: Mr. Speaker, some members around us have suggested that both the minister and I should be on the *Greenpeace*.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rose: Mr. Speaker, I should like to proceed with my supplementary question. Since Canada has protested this test through a note, and the minister reiterated that, how can the government in good conscience not protest the conditions surrounding this particular action?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that this is argument, not a question.

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• (1500)

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REQUEST THAT SHERBROOKE BE DESIGNATED AS SPECIAL AREA

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

[Mr. Sharp.]

Would the minister tell the House whether Sherbrooke is going to be designated as a "special area", in view of the large number of very poor adjacent parishes located in the western Sherbrooke area?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I believe I made a statement in the House last week concerning this matter. I have nothing to add at the moment.

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question.

Would the minister have any particular suggestions in order to include parishes adjacent to Sherbrooke in a "special area", either by separating them from Sherbrooke, or by designating areas on a county rather than a region basis?

Mr. Speaker: I think that this question is more in the form of a representation made by the hon. member, and I believe that he must assume that it has been noted.

INQUIRY RESPECTING DESIGNATION OF NEW SPECIAL AREAS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question.

In view of the statement he made two weeks ago, could the hon. minister tell the House whether discussions are now under way with the Quebec government in order to determine new special areas for the province of Quebec and, in such a case, whether there will be an announcement in the House by the end of this month?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, we maintain contacts with the government of Quebec for many reasons. We have made 45 agreements with provinces and we are continuing negotiations with them.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I remind hon. members once more that the oral question period will be ending in a few minutes and if they ask five or six supplementaries on each question, we shall never finish. However, the Chair recognizes the hon. member for Lotbinière for a last supplementary on this matter.

DISCUSSION OF DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL AREAS WITH PROVINCES

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Can the minister indicate whether or not the issue of designated areas is included in the 45 topics which he is discussing with provincial governments?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I will simply refer the hon. member to the statement I made about 10 days ago. I think if the hon. member takes the trouble to read *Hansard*, he will find the answer there.