

the subject of the meeting in Halifax this morning was precisely on the point the hon. member has raised.

* * *

TRANSPORT

CO-OPERATION OF CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES COASTGUARD IN SURVEILLANCE OF OIL SLICK FROM GROUNDED "ARGO MERCHANT"

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the very serious environmental threat posed by this oil slick to Canadian waters and the Canadian east coast fishing industry, what steps is the Canadian Coast Guard taking to keep the oil slick under surveillance and what co-operation is the Canadian Coast Guard offering to the United States coastguard?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think my colleague effectively indicated the co-operation which always exists. In this case, we have a very good working relationship with the United States coastguard and of course we are available at any time.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO REGULATE TANKERS USING FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs? In view of the statement made by the chief of the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States today to the effect that stricter international regulations are required to govern this kind of tanker traffic, especially with tankers flying flags of convenience—and we had an unhappy experience of our own with the *Arrow* disaster with which the minister is familiar as it happened when he was minister of transport—what steps has Canada taken on the eve of our implementation of a 200 mile fisheries management zone to press for international regulations in this regard, perhaps in concert with the United States?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member will recall that Canada was in the forefront of proposals such as those outlined today. In 1959 we took the initiative at IMCO, one of the United Nations agencies, and of course many good results flowed from that. That agency is still operating and Canada is a member. We are still discussing what I agree ought to be a tougher regime in terms of international tankers. As the hon. member will also know, it is very difficult to get international agreement on this. In Canadian terms we continue to have the special fund which is assessed on all oil cargoes moving within our territorial waters. I have no doubt that we will be discussing with the United States, as well as with others, the possi-

ty that now the 200 miles economic zone has been declared, of extending the current limit to 12 miles farther out with regard to further pollution incidents.

● (1420)

Mr. McGrath: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister prepared to take the initiative on Canada's part and tell his counterparts in the international community that Canada, following the implementation of the 200-mile limit, is prepared to take the initiative in boarding vessels flying flags of convenience, in order to ascertain whether they have satisfactory navigational equipment and to protect the Canadian environment?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I think that is a useful suggestion, and if there could be even a bilateral agreement with the United States on this we might well be able to move in that direction. As I recall, boarding rights extend only out to 12 miles, but as I said in my earlier response, while the economic zone established deals primarily with fisheries, I think a justifiable link between those two aspects could well be established.

* * *

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

REQUEST FOR NEW MEASURES TO CREATE JOBS

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Considering that over the Christmas period some two million Canadians directly or indirectly will be affected by unemployment and that government job creation programs for the winter will create at most 40,000 jobs during the winter period, will the Prime Minister assure the House that appropriate ministries will be given the obligation during the one month Christmas recess to institute new job-creating initiatives for after the recess, and present them to the House?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that the appropriate ministers, indeed the government itself, will be devoting a great deal of energy and thought to this very serious problem.

* * *

FINANCE

POSSIBILITY OF NEW BUDGET AIMED AT CREATING MORE JOBS

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, it is encouraging to note that there will be thought, but we also would like action. May I ask the Minister of Finance if, in terms of his responsibilities, he would undertake during the next month to reconsider the government's position with respect to a budget and promise to come forwards when we resume work after the Christmas break, with a new budget of