

Mr. Marshall: In view of the vast increase in the cost and size of the land required by veterans, will the minister take the necessary action to relieve the acreage payment under the act by reducing the limitation of one half acre less 20 per cent for veterans who qualify?

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, this would also be government policy which would be announced in due course.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES—SECURITY OF CANADIAN OBSERVERS

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In the light of reports of an intense renewal of hostilities in Viet Nam, could the minister inform the House as to the present position of the Canadian observers, especially with regard to their safety, and could he tell us if he is considering any changes?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have received from the government of the Republic of Viet Nam a protest against the activities of the communist forces in that area. This has been addressed to us not as a member of the International Control Commission but as a member of the International Conference on Viet Nam. In other words, this protest has been made to all parties to the conference. The commission itself is continuing to try to carry out its responsibilities under increasing difficulties, but we have not yet had any advice that in their view it is necessary to withdraw from any place in which they are now located.

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FISHERIES

INQUIRY RESPECTING REQUESTS BY PROVINCES OR PROCESSORS TO WITHDRAW FROM FRESHWATER FISH MARKETING CORPORATION

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the fact many fish processors suffered losses in last year's operations and there are many unanswered questions with regard to the financial state of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, has the minister received any request from any processor or province to withdraw from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, other than the corporation itself, it is not true that either the fishermen or the fish buyers lost money. The financial loss is confined mainly to the corporation.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. My information is that the Co-op Fisheries of Saskatchewan lost \$108,000 last year.

Oral Questions

FLOODS

LAKE ONTARIO—REQUEST FOR PROVISION OF SANDBAGS TO PROPERTY OWNERS

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. Because of many instances of urgent need for sandbags to cope with high water levels of Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte, will the minister and his department take action to make sandbags available to property owners whose premises are presently threatened with flooding in this emergency?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the property owners should look for this help to the levels of government to which they pay property taxes.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Mr. Speaker, I remind the minister that these waters are under national jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

LAND USE PERMIT TO COMINCO AT WRIGLEY—SUGGESTED MORATORIUM ON DEVELOPMENT UNTIL LAND CLAIMS SETTLED—STATEMENT ON ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the recent press statement by the Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories which mentions the sham the government went through in granting a permit to Cominco at Fort Wrigley against the wishes of the band and settlement councils, which resulted in the land caveat being filed, will the minister tell the House if the government is now prepared to grant a moratorium on development in the affected area until the land claims are settled?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we have repeatedly invited the Indians in the Northwest Territories to choose the lands they are entitled to under treaties Nos. 8 and 11; our position in this regard is still the same. We hope they will make a choice; it is up to them to decide which lands will belong to the Indians in that area.

[English]

Mr. Dinsdale: In view of a press statement by the Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories that a caveat over the major portion of the whole MacKenzie Valley was based on possible claims to aboriginal rights of the Indian people of the Northwest Territories, will the minister tell the House when his statement on aboriginal rights will be presented to the House?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, we are now working on the matter of the rights of the Indians in the provinces where