

Inquiries of the Ministry

to agriculture. In our discussions with the United States authorities we considered specific actions which might be taken at particular times if our agricultural production would be drastically upset as a result of large imports. We have taken action in this regard from time to time, although it is not the type of action one likes to take, by establishing values for duty, as we did in respect of potatoes some time ago.

NATIONAL CAPITAL**POLLUTION OF AREA WATERWAYS**

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio in charge of resources. It relates to a situation I mentioned on Monday concerning pollution in the Rideau River and Nepean Creek and arises from a statement attributed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Has the government undertaken to give federal assistance to clear up this situation?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of this question. I have not seen the statement of my colleague to which he referred. The general approach of the government to problems of pollution will be made known at the time of the appearance of the draft of the Canada water act. It is not our intention to give any general undertakings in connection with these matters until that time.

Mr. Aiken: Mr. Speaker, I had a supplementary question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion with regard to what he had said but since he is not here I shall abandon it.

FISHERIES**RECONVENING OF LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE—DISCUSSIONS ON STRAIGHT BASE LINES**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct this question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. During the minister's recent visit to other countries did he discuss the necessity of reconvening another United Nations law of the sea conference to win international approval for the extension of exclusive fishing zones to the edge of the continental shelf? If so, when may we expect a report indicating that another conference will be called or may be held?

[Mr. Benson.]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, plans are now being discussed for the calling of another law of the sea conference at which time, of course, we will be pressing our particular points of view. The Soviet Union and the United States, the two principal powers, are prepared for this conference and have certain ideas to put forward, some of which we agree with and others with which we do not agree.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question relating to the discussions which took place during the recent visit to Washington about the law of the sea. Is the minister prepared to say whether or not Canada and the United States are now in agreement with regard to the lines that Canada is drawing with relation to territorial waters?

Mr. Sharp: The United States has expressed some reservations about the lines we have drawn. They have made this quite clear. I do not think that as yet we see eye to eye concerning the law of the sea, but that is not surprising. I do not think there are any two countries in the world which see eye to eye on these questions. We hope we will be able to influence the United States in our direction.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I might indicate that we have gone beyond the time allotted for questions. I note that many members this morning have not had an opportunity to ask questions. This is perhaps due to the special circumstances. I would think, unless there is unanimous agreement of the house that we continue, the question period at this time cannot proceed further. Is there unanimous agreement?

Some hon. Members: No, no.

HOUSE OF COMMONS**SUGGESTION TO SUSPEND SITTING ON MONDAY PRECEDING DOMINION DAY**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that Tuesday is a holiday, I wonder whether the President of the Privy Council, through the usual channels, would ascertain whether it might meet with general approval if we were to suspend the sitting on